

Randolph County Council

March 7, 2023

The Randolph County Council met for its regular meeting at 9:00 AM in the Commissioners and Council Room of the Courthouse with the following members present: Council President David Lenkensdofer, Tom Chalfant, Mike Stine, Tom Kerns, Todd Holaday, Missy Williams. Also present was County Auditor Laura J Martin.

Council President David Lenkensdofer presided.

Pledge of Allegiance

Scottie Harvey, Tourism – funding Winchester Speedway sign

Scottie said we are asking to be able to transfer \$50,000.00 into our budget from our reserve money for the speedway sign project that's been done

David said okay. Anything you'd like to add to that Scottie.

Scottie said I'm the biggest cheerleader out there for this project. And it's going to be a lasting spot that will help the speedway. It's nothing but a plus, plus, plus. I don't find any negatives to it at all.

Missy said I think it's also going to be a big plus for the county, because it's going to be a message board that events that are going on, no matter what, I mean, they'll set some guidelines, I'm sure. Right Scottie?

Scottie said we are in the process of doing that right now.

Missy said it's just a welcome, anybody coming from the west coming into town. It's going to be much more noticeable. The second thing is, that sign has had it. I've looked at it, it is leaning. I don't know, a good wind is going to take the old one down. So, I think Charlie Shaw is really interested in, I know he's very interested in making improvements on the track, and trying to get it back to really being something that people are going to make it a place to come for every race, and not just kind of get in a mess. They've got some plans going.

David said any questions for Scottie?

Tom Chalfant said I think I expressed last meeting just some concern about the future of racing, and hopefully, this sign will have other uses if the race track goes away.

Scottie said we're working on that to, to draw up some legalities with that. We're working on that.

Tom Kerns said what's the total dollars going to this, taxpayer dollars with that other entity?

David said well it's \$50,000 from the EDIT and then \$50,000 from tourism.

Scottie said tourism will be inn keepers' taxes for tax purposes.

David said any other questions? We will approve it on the additional appropriations Scottie, it's on down, we'll wait until we get to that point.

Scottie said okay. Thank you very much.

David said thanks for coming in.

Scottie said you know this is not my happy place. It's not my comfort zone.

Missy said you've also done a lot of work on this. I mean, I know it's been a lot.

Scottie said it's been a community group effort.

Charity Cox – Willows Edge tax abatement

David said Charity Cox. Morning.

Charity Cox said good morning. My husband is back there. Hi, I'm Charity Cox. We are here today to ask for a tax abatement. We are starting the new event venue, the south side of the golf course. And we were just wanting to ask for this to kind of help us get us on our feet. The project is around \$800,000.00 to do. We did secure a \$550,000 loan. And we've put over \$170,000.00 of our own money into it. So, we're pretty strapped. Currently, we're, and we've got some help from the county commissioners for this project. And so, we just, we would like to do this tax abatement, because we feel like we're going to give so much back to the county, and this could help us, really help us get us on our feet the first five, ten years.

David said okay. Any questions for Charity?

Tom said how much is tax abatement will this amount to? This is not a TIF district, this is just a personal tax abatement for this business?

Charity Cox said yes.

Missy said Dan, do you want to come on up?

Meeks said just to, I think the answer is, to your question is, you know when you do the Windfarm, you do a 10-year 100% abatement. So, you're abate the whole thing ten years. The traditional tax abatement is 100% the first year, 90, 80, 70, 60, 50, and that's what it used to be

forever in Indiana. They changed that statute five, ten years ago to the county council could pretty much do anything they wanted. So, you could do, within a 10-year period. So, you could do a 100 the first year, 67% the second year, 33% until it would be abated over the net assessment is. So, if the assessed value, how much are you putting?

Charity Cox said it's around \$770,000.

Meeks said so, that's your building cost, right? So, that's part.

Charity Cox said that's building cost. That's how much it cost for our land, utilities.

Meeks said right. So that won't be the net assessed valuation.

Charity Cox said \$550,000 is what we could get the building built for, is what we had bids for.

Meeks said okay. So, if you put 550 in it, you're probably not going to be worth 550, I don't know. But, let's say it's worth \$100,000.00 you cannot, the land cost, cannot be abated. So, whatever you bought the land, that's outside any abatement you can do. You can only abate basically, manmade things on that. If you wanted to do it, we would have to get a resolution together for your next meeting to proceed, and then have a public hearing about that. At least, that's the process.

David said well I think the county commissioners gave like \$46,000 from Edit.

Charity Cox said yeah to help with our getting the sewer, the city sewer out to us, and the cost of our engineering, the county tile that goes through our property.

David said in the past, I don't think we've ever granted an EDIT funds and a tax abatement on one property. Are you aware of that?

Meeks said we haven't done that in 16, however long I've been here for.

David said I'll start with you Missy, what do you think?

Missy said I was raised with a bunch of sisters so, I've been called everything. I think it's a great project, two reasons. If you look back on the tax bill on that property, it has been about 100 bucks a half. So, and it goes down from there. If you go the last 10 years, so, compared the last 10 years to the future 10 years, and what it could mean to the county, first of all, they cleaned up the junk yard that had feral animals in it. I mean, I live fairly close it, it didn't affect us. But, it was a junk yard with all kinds of stuff. I mean, cars, big semis and tanker trucks.

Tom Chalfant said who cleaned the junk yard up?

Missy said I assume it was Bill.

Charity Cox said it was in our purchase agreement because Bill wanted to clean it up, but that was in our purchase agreement.

Missy said I mean, I've walked over there at, when they were starting to move it and clean it up, and there were license plates from 1946 and 1950. That's how long some things had been sitting out there. So, I'm assuming you really had to move some dirt around to get rid of some of that.

Charity Cox said he's been awesome. Bill's been so helpful with us. And we actually, we got a phase one and two environmental impact report done as well, and had the soil tested, and it came back clean. So, we did get that done, just so that there was not any guessing of whatever we could build, if the water was going to be good or anything like that. But, we did get the environmental impact report done as well, since it was a junk yard.

Missy said so, to me, for the whole, for the county, I think this could greatly impact the county. I sure hope that high schools in our county, those five high schools either stay at their own schools for proms, or use an event center, because when kids driving on the roads going to Muncie, and I think, I know the three schools on the 32 corridor go to Muncie, or go someplace to do their proms. I think it can be a real asset. I look at what can we offer. When people come here to look at Randolph County, and they're going to say what's here that's going to make our quality of life better. I think it's a big asset for Randolph County to have something like that. If you have an event that's over a hundred people, you really have no where to go in the county. I mean, the community center is wonderful. But, you put more than a hundred people in and you're jam packed. And there's no where else to go. I think it's a win, win for everybody. I think over the duration if you, if that's taxed at \$500,000.00, you know you're, you're going to be talking on that, I had somebody run those for me, about, it's going to be about \$5,000.00 a year you're going to end up paying in taxes on that. First year alone, or second year, let's say you go 10%, 20%, and down at the end, they're going to pay the 100% back, a 100% of the assessed value, you're going to make money on it. The county's going to make money on this project, and have an amazing facility. I'm in favor of it.

David said okay. Thanks Missy. Tom.

Tom Chalfant said where do you draw the line when you take taxpayers' money and invest it in private property? I guess, is there a template, is there some way where you could be subjective because as a commissioner, when we open the door for somebody to get something, everybody else want the same thing. I mean, if we gave money to Union City, Winchester wants the same deal. And so, if we have any other public kind of venues, I can see them wanting money, tax abatements and whatever, I wish you well, but I just you know, we're not a bank. I don't think you know, this is a good, this has got a good business plan. I think there's money out there for people. I mean people are looking for places to invest money. If this is a good viable business, I think you could get financing. I guess I'm just not in favor of giving, and I don't really like tax abatements, to begin with, because it shifts the burden from one piece of the pie, one slice of pie to another. I mean, the tax base is a tax base. And they we've got to provide services. And when somebody gets a break, then somebody else is going to pick that up, somebody else is going to pay for police, fire protection in the same area. So, I don't think I want to go for it.

David said okay. Mike.

Mike said I agree a little bit with both of them. I mean, I think they're good, but also, with getting money from the commissioners, where do we draw the line.

Charity Cox said can I add to what Missy had said? We are going to work with the local high schoolers, high schools to have proms and stuff here. We do plan to give back to them, and not charge them, just enough for the electricity and stuff. But we are going to give back to the community. And we're not asking for a hand out. We're just asking for a hand up, especially in the first few years of our business where we're already struggling.

David said okay. Todd.

Todd said I'm obviously, fairly new to this, but I know that you know, it's not easy to get a business off the ground. And I've always kind of tend to lean to try to help something succeed versus hit it hard at the beginning when they're struggling the most. The success rate of a new business is not very high. I would tend to lean more on the side of trying to help. I don't, how much money has already been invested in this by the, through the EDIT funds?

Charity Cox said \$46,000.

Todd said \$46,000. And what would be the tax abatement did you say roughly, a year?

Meeks said so how tax abatements work again is, it depends what you do. But the traditional tax abatement, what we did for the Wind turbines and the solar are a little different because you give a 10-year 100% abatement. This should be, I assume a traditional one, which is a total tax abatement, other than what the, whatever they're paying for now is what they're going to pay for next year. And then it's a 100% of that the first year, and 90% the next year, 80, 70, 60, 50, 40. So, it goes down 10% a year.

Todd said right. I understand, what I'm trying just to estimate in my head is what the actual tax would be, the property tax.

Meeks said well it's a 2%, right? It's a commercial building, which is 2%.

Todd said it's about \$10,000.00 the first year.

Meeks said well it depends what the, it depends what the net assessed value is.

Todd said it's roughly \$500,000.00, it would be about.

Meeks said 2%.

Todd said the acreage it's on would be taxed as usual.

Meeks said so, how tax abatements work though, you're not, the county doesn't get that \$10,000.00. Right, because our budget's fixed. So, what the state says, and this is for the new people, the state says we get X amount of dollars, no matter what. So, if you got a huge factory

coming to town, and they paid \$30,000.00 of the bill, that just helps the other taxpayers, right? So, your tax rate goes down for everybody else. We don't get more money. We don't get that \$30,000.00 windfall. It just spreads out with everybody. So, that's why you really want, and that's the problem with the property tax caps. You want investment. You want people to come here and build things. That means everybody else's rates are lower.

Todd said spread to the pie.

Meeks said yeah, because we are limited with 1% for homeowners, 2% for commercial and 3% for industrial. And so, you want that because what happens is if you look at your tax bill, you have that, those losses that, and the county would have a loss. So, if my bill should be \$1,200.00 but I only pay a 1,000, that's a \$200.00 loss spread over all the taxing units that we have. So, in my situation would be you know, the city of Winchester, the county, the library district, whatever other districts, White River, and so they share that \$200.00 loss. And really, the county shares, has a burden of our losses, or always seem to be higher. So, yeah, you kind of want that investment, that's why you want the investment. Did I answer your question Todd?

Todd said yes. That was helpful because I, it helped me put the pieces together. So, you know, the pie gets bigger, but if we abate this portion of it, the same people, the pie stays the same. Meeks said to me, I'm in White River. It won't affect my bill at all, because that investment never occurred.

Todd said had they do well, and they become taxpayers, they decrease the amount of burden on the rest of the people.

Meeks said yeah, and the county gets the same amount of money.

Todd said is there a proforma that has a time at which you become profitable? Do you know?

Charity Cox said we have year in our business plan, we have about year 7, 8 is when we'll start being profitable. Our plan is to take any of the profits we get to put it back directly to our loans, and to pay things off. And so, year 7, 8 is when we would start making profits.

Todd said alright, that's enough information for me. Thank you. Where do I lean on this? I would do something. I don't know what it would be.

David said okay. Tom.

Tom Kerns said I'm like Tom, I struggle with tax abatements, altogether, especially when we've already, EDIT money has already been contributed to the project. It's just, there's other venues, some even some right outside the county that's owned by county residents that they're competing against. And we're giving them an upper hand over others. So, I just struggle with the businesses benefiting with tax dollars to be more, you know, as far as competition. But, great project. Great project. I'm probably not in favor of a full traditional abatement. Maybe, some other version, I don't know.

Daniel Baker said if I may add, doing an analysis, just maybe this helps a little bit, is we anticipate that the venue, itself, will help increase just the economy by about a half a million dollars outside of the venue itself, meaning people go into Walmart, buying groceries, go into the hotel, going to gas station, different things like that. So, it's a definite economic boost to our entire economy outside of what they are already bringing. So, we did a pretty deep analysis on that front. So, just adding that.

Bob McCoy said can I add something? Bob McCoy, city of Winchester. I think this, if this was presented before the city of Winchester, and this was a Winchester property, I think the council would go with probably a 5-year abatement step, again to kind of give her a hand up to get her on her feet, both of you. But, that's just my thoughts. And I mean, you're not getting tax dollars right now anyway, so you're going to get them in the future. I just look at it as a win, win for everybody.

David said so, Bob on the 5-year, is it 20, 40, 60, 80?

Meeks said that's been the traditional.

Bob McCoy said that's the way Winchester did some in the past.

Meeks said I'd bet you the last half dozen the city's done that. Or at least for the last two administrations.

Bob McCoy said other than like Ardagh got a 10-year 100%.

Meeks said did they get 100% on the traditional?

Bob McCoy said yeah. So, I mean, and then they wrote off a lot of equipment which it hurt, but again, Ardagh is successful and everybody benefits. So, that's just my opinion.

Missy said Silver Towne also got a tax abatement when they brought equipment in. And they're not, I mean the Hendrickson's don't own, Silver Towne doesn't own that anymore. That's owned by A-Mark in San Monica, California. And I think there was a great chance they were going to move that to California and then we wouldn't have had that here without that tax abatement. They brought a lot of equipment in.

David said so would you guys be in favor of a 5-year loan or?

Tom Kerns said more so than the 10.

David said is there a motion to that?

Missy said I make a motion that we approve a 5-year abatement, 80, what was it again, it's 80, 60.

Meeks said it's a 100, 80, 60, 40, 20. I think that's how we did it. Just to let you know, if we do it, I'll have to get the initial resolutions together. You guys will vote on it again. I just don't want to get the initial resolutions together if it's not going to pass. And that's kind of why you are voting. Then after that initial, those initial resolutions are voted on at next meeting, then you'll set it for public hearing. And that would be at your March, April, May meeting, and then you'll have the final resolutions. So, from now until then, we'll put in the 5-year, but you can change your minds, I guess is what I'm saying, up until the final resolution.

David said okay. I have a motion on the floor for a 5-year. Do I have a second?

Todd seconded the motion. Four aye votes. 2 opposed(Mike and Tom C.). Motion carried.

David said 4 to 2.

Meeks said so, we'll get those resolutions together so, it's imperative for you guys to be here at the next meeting.

Charity Cox said okay.

Meeks said but I don't know when that is. You can get with Laura.

Laura said what, for the next meeting?

Meeks said for the next meeting. Yeah.

Laura said let me look at the calendar.

Meeks said April the 4th.

Laura said yeah that's right.

Meeks said and then the public hearing would be May 3rd.

Charity Cox said okay. Thank you guys very much. We're excited to bring this venue to Randolph County, and all the good that will come.

Julie Wilson, Amy Alka and Zoe Robinson – 4-H update

Julie Wilson said so we just wanted to kind of give an update from the Extension Office. There are some unfamiliar faces, so I'll introduce myself. I'm Julie Wilson. I'm the County Extension Director, and I'm the 4H Youth Development educator. This is Amy Alka. She's our Ag and natural resource educator. And then Zoe Robinson is our Health and Human Science educator. So, you all have packets or folders with our most current information on programming that we offer. So, the green newsletter is the 4H, or my newsletter, the 4H newsletter. So, a couple of things that we have going on currently, 4H enrollment is up and going. We have over 600 kids currently enrolled. I just finished my last school promotion last week, due to some snow days and two-hour delays. It really throws off schedules when I try to go to the school. So, Monroe

Central was my last school. We just got done visiting last week with the livestock and 4H ambassadors. So, I'm hopeful that we get a bunch more enrollments from the Farmland area in the next week or so. So, we also have our farm to fork program, which is through Randolph Southern. We are doing a farm to fork lesson series with the 5th grade classes at Randolph Southern. So, they are getting a rural Randolph County agriculture lesson. So, the first lesson was all about dairy, animal science, and food science. So, we taught them about, made butter, we tasted different kinds of milk, they tasted cheese. We learned about the dairy industry and then we went and visited the local Union Go Dairy. So, they actually got to see you know, from what they got to eat, to how it was made, and the process at the dairy. And then the next lesson was all about goods from the woods. We went to Frank Miller Lumber. We learned about all the food that comes from trees. They made pancakes with Zoe, and we talked about maple syrup. And then they visited Frank Miller Lumber, which I wasn't able to attend that field trip. But, they can tell you more about it. And then, our next lesson, we will be doing chicken embryology within the classroom, and they will actually get to incubate have baby chicks. And then we will do a bunch of lessons. We'll dissect eggs. We'll cook with eggs. And then, at the very end of it, all the fifth graders at Randolph Southern are now active 4H members, so within the grant, it covered all of our expenses plus making those kids 4H members. And they will do an animal science poster project in May that will be exhibited at the county fair. So, they'll get to pick an animal that they want to like, dive deep into the understanding, whatever topic they choose animal science related. And they'll exhibit that at the fair. So, all of us are involved, but the 4-H side of it is they all are 4-Hers, which is awesome. We are offering three family orientation nights, so anybody that has more questions about 4H or are new to 4H, there are first generation families that have never been a part of a 4H program, and it's kind of a double-edged sword. You know, sometimes we talk in our own lingo and just want to make sure everybody understands how projects work, how the fair works, and we don't want anybody to be like, oh, that wasn't a good experience because I didn't ask the right questions. So, we have those coming up in March. The junior leaders, we went to the nursing home. Then we had a game night. The junior leaders is for 8th grade to 12th grade students, and it's just kind of like an after-school club. And they do a bunch of community service projects throughout Randolph County. So, the last one that we did, we went to Randolph Nursing Home and we had a game night with the residents there. Around 25 kids attended that. The residents more or less, wanted to talk to the kids, then actually play games. So, it was just kind of, they got us ice cream, and they, we need more ice cream at this table. And I think they just enjoyed the conversation and the ice cream for the most part. And then, for Ag days, I go into all the schools and do an intro to chicken embryology. And so, we will dissect chicken eggs within all of the 4th grade classrooms here in Randolph County. We'll talk about how eggs are developed. We'll watch a little short video. They'll actually get to dissect, they're unfertilized so, I just go to the grocery store and buy them. We talk about fertilized versus unfertilized. And then we will have a backyard chicken program, and we will hatch baby chicks during Ag Day. And Amy and I will talk to them about chicken at Ag Days, about our part of Ag Day program. And then one of my goals this year is to offer more workshops within some of the projects that don't have superintendents. So, I just got a \$1,000.00 grant to kind of do a farm to fork experience for our sheep and goat kids. There's 178 sheep and goat kids within the Randolph County program. So, we, I've got a sheep donated, Winchester Meats is going to let us come in and see a lamb being processed. And then there's some educational workshops that are going to go on. We've got one next week to start it, and they'll actually get to taste lamb and goat at the fair. It's not a highly eaten

product, but we have a lot of kids produce these ultimately through the livestock projects. They all become producers of that product. It goes into the food chain at some point. So, we want them to have that experience of actually like tasting lamb or goat. So, those are the things that are in the works with the 4H program. There's a lot of other things within the newsletter. We've got 4H clubs meeting, dogs are going, shooting sports are starting. Lots of things happening, but that's kind of the brief overview of the 4H program. So, any questions for me before I turn it over to Amy?

Tom Chalfant said does anybody still candle eggs?

Amy Alka said oh yeah, we candle eggs.

Julie Wilson said we're definitely going to candle. It is so cool.

Amy Alka said okay. My turn. Amy Alka. I do the Ag Natural Resource program. And it's kind of my favorite time of year because we're doing baby chicks. I just returned. I spent a whole week in Washington DC with my Ag Leadership class. And we met over 50 Ag Industry leaders and commodity groups and things like that. It was, we were there for I think six days, so we did a lot. And I can't wait to share everything I've learned and just understand a broader scope of agriculture. It's just really cool, what we, down here at the grass roots level, everything that we do and how important it is to trade and the stability of the economy and stuff like that. So, that was a really good trip. This week is Ag safety awareness week, and you guys all know I'm really big on Ag safety. So, we've been putting some stuff out there with that. Also, this time of year is lawn and garden time, and it's never too early to start. And it's just at the beginning of the series of what I'm doing. I've been offering the classes, a classroom a day and a class in the evening on the same day of the same class. And actually, the daytime classes are more in demand than the evening classes. So, we actually have one tonight, and one today on garden planting. So, if you are interested in that, we'd love to have you. Let's see, oh, another big one, this is the 100th annual Farmers Achievement Banquet Year. So, we have some new things that we're doing with that. We are, we're selling commemorative t-shirts. So, if you get on our face book page, there's a link there to buy those. They're \$12.00 for short sleeve, \$16.00 for long sleeves. We're not making any money on it, but we just thought it would be cool since it's the 100th annual to have something kind of commemorative. If you attend the farmers achievement banquet, they have sponsors for, there's some glass cups that's going to have something on there to commemorate also for the attendees to take home with them as well. If you are interested in that, the tickets are on sale. And you have to buy them by March 20th. So, it should be pretty cool. It's a long-standing tradition.

Julie said Gracie Lee. Gracie Lee was a senior 4H member. She is a state FFA officer currently, but I'll let you.

Amy said Gracie Lee is going to be our speaker that night. So, I've heard her speak at the young ladies in Ag forum that I assisted with a few weeks ago, and she's wonderful. She is, did not come from a farm background, and talks to a lot of the kids. I think it's a really good message, because everybody thinks that in order to be in 4H and some of these things, you have to grow up on a farm. And she, it's a really good message for a lot of kids. And I think it's dually

important that she's turned into a wonderful speaker. So, that would be really good for you to come out and support her. We have award of honors we're giving that night. And then we're recognizing, all the livestock producers nominate an award winner for the year for them. And then of course, all the kids, their achievements. That's a pretty big undertaking. A really good project that I'm working on, my Ag leadership class, I had to have them making a difference project. So, I have been working with Trinity Community over in Union City, and we're installing a pollinator garden. So, I'm working with, those names escape me over there, a really nice guy, the maintenance guy basically, and he's been doing a lot of work on that. And we have some master gardeners here in the county. And so, they're helping with that. And then just other volunteers. And when I was in DC I made a connection with two people who are going to help with some of the donations and funding for that. So, I thought that was kind of cool. And of course, the backyard chickens, we have class where people come and it's age appropriate. We come together, we do some introductions, and then Julie takes the young people and I keep the adults. And then, Zoe is going to come back in and we're going to do some cooking and different things with that. So, come to that, and we will candle eggs. It is so cool.

Julie Wilson said you do get, if you want, four baby chicks at the end of that. If the youth members attend, they get those and they can show them at the poultry project in the county fair. So, we did this last year and we had two families bring back their birds, and the one was like champion Poulet or whatever. They do get to visit those birds within the 4H program also. So, kind of a universal project there.

Amy Alka said and then Ag Days is coming up. It's April 5th and 6th. And so, we've been working with the committee to kind of spruce it up a little bit so we've got a few things going on that are in the works. We're going to have a local beekeeper come in and do some education with the kids about beekeeping and honey. And we've invited some of the, well, we've invited everybody from the farmers market to come in and kind of share and get people thinking about farmers market is coming up, and healthier eating and stuff like that. So, there's a lot of that still in the works. But come on out, we're still doing the farmers share breakfast. A dollar, and you get a plate load of goodies to eat. And then you can walk around and see some of the displays. And we have all the 4th grades coming to that, and then all the pre-schools are invited to attend as well. So, lots going on. I think I'm going to tag you in.

Zoe Robinson said tag me in. Okay, so, I'm Zoe Robinson, the health and human science educator. In my roll, I focus on health, food, nutrition and financial management. So, I have a broad range of programs that I'm offering, and just have different ones in the works. So, I just finished up in January and February, I did, it's called matter of balance. So, I was trained and partnered with Life Stream, so they were able to supply incentives to the participants and snacks, and they made the binders, so that was a great partnership with Life stream. Sorry, my newsletter is the orange one in your packet. So, I have some programs in there that we'll go over, but so just finished that up with about 13 participants. And they're already asking when the next one is going to be. So, it talks about fall prevention and how to build strength. And then I also had a physical therapist from Adams Physical Therapy come in and demonstrate if you do fall on the floor and if you are alone, and if you need to get up. So, having that resource, it was great to have everyone sharing their experiences and learning from each other. It was a great program. I was looking forward to hosting another one. So, actually, this afternoon, I start at Randolph

Southern with their 3rd graders. I do a program called Captain Cash. So, we focus on money management, so we talk about savings, spending, earning, and there's a 4th one, savings, spending, earning and borrowing. So, we focus, and I'm there for the next two weeks with both of those classes. So, I go in and it's four sessions, and I work with the 3rd graders, and then Merchants Bank has sponsored piggy banks for all the kids to receive during that program. So, that's another great partnership I've got going with them. So, looking forward to that. And then in May, I'm offering that at Deerfield as well. So, expanding out to the other schools to get that all for them. It's a fun program, one of my favorites. Teaching money management at a younger level, I think it's super important that we're sharing that as well. And then I was selected so, I kind of feel the niche in mental health here, being in this position, so, I was selected for, it's called CREW. It's a program for work place environment, so it's Compassion, Resilience and Education at Work. So, I'm going to pilot that with staff at Randolph Southern Elementary. So, I'm focusing on work-like balance, I'm working with them on how to handle stress and just finding that work-like balance in their lives. And Amy and I, she has a work place wellness. So, we might work on, in some way to try to combine both of these programs to kind of work with different companies. I mean, we've talked about Wicks. I mean, you've sent out some ideas. So, I just wanted to start with, Randolph Southern had reached out about like a professional development program for their staff. So, that's why I'm piloting this with them. So, looking forward to maybe partnering with Amy in the future for this. And then recently, we had a youth panel with the division of mental health and addiction that was, was at the end of February. We hosted that at the fairgrounds. And I'm on the client consultation board with the division of mental health, and just kind of serving on that coalition. So, with all the recent mental health discussion and youth and adult suicides in Randolph County, we've really racked our brains on what type programs we could be offering to help the community. So, we're offering a youth mental health first aid training. So, that is limited to 30 participants, and we have two educators from Purdue Extension, offering that, that are trained to offer this program. So, that is going to be a training that will be available. So, I have a feeling it will probably fill up pretty quick just because the recent heartache and grief that our community is feeling from those losses. And then we're also going to offer a youth mental health 101. So, this is open to adults, grandparents, caregivers, parents or friends or mentors, anyone who might have youth in their lives. So, we invite anyone to attend those. There's going to be two different sessions. It's in my newsletter. One night is April 4th, and the other is May 4th. And that'll just be at the fairgrounds. You can call and register to attend. We just want to share knowledge with individuals on mental health and kind of breaking the barriers, and warning signs of suicide as well, just because we have, our community has been impacted. And I mean, we had, a 4Her sadly, we felt, we've all felt the impact. So, we're trying to make a difference, and just provide resources for anyone, any adults or any kid that needs to talk to someone. So, kind of just having that and I also work with a Purdue Extension Farm Stress team, and I'm on the podcast committee, so trying to find individuals in the Ag community to get on that podcast and share their story as well. So, I kind of have found my niche in the mental health world, and I love getting to tie in my Ag roots with that team. So, and then, the last thing I really have to talk about is I'm offering a food handler serve safe certification and training. So, anyone who sells food or baked goods, jams, jellies, anything at the farmers market, they now have to go through this certification of the food handler due to the house bill that was passed for home-based vendors. So, I'm offering that at the end of March. So, just an opportunity for them to check that off their list. That's about everything I have in the works right now.

Julie Wilson said I do want to say Zoe works closely with Reid Hospital to get that youth mental health first aid training offered for free. It will be at no cost to our residents within Randolph County that want to sign up. So, the first 35 that will be a free, I don't know if you want to speak more on that but I think that's a great partnership you have with Reid.

Zoe Robinson said yeah, the Community Health benefits, I work a lot with them on exploring grant opportunities, but I work closely with an individual within that group, and they have offered to cover. The registration includes their lunch, booklets and just to attend the program. So, it's a full day of training. So, we're excited to have that offered. I know we're going to send it out to school corporations, because they are the boots on the ground working with the kids in and out every day. So, we're just really going to spread that out with the community as much as we can. Yeah, Reid was very gracious in their support on this program, and really making this happen for us.

Julie Wilson said information overload. Sorry. We were just excited.

Missy said great job.

Julie Wilson said so, I guess, if there's any questions, comments.

David said any questions for our 4H educators?

Tom Chalfant said keep it up.

David said thanks for coming up.

Mike Haffner and Joe Copeland – Schedule of expenditures

Joe Copeland said good morning. First of all, I owe you some maps. At the last meeting, I was asked to put together some maps showing where these bridges are located. So, I put together some maps. So, this includes the bridges that we're potentially, hoping to work on. There is one that's a, that was a culvert, and is now a bridge. It's being constructed right now, and that's on 700 North between 2 and 300 West. It's the one green. It was a rather large culvert. It was almost 20 feet long to start with. We've applied for Federal funding. In November, we applied for four structures to get 80% money back from the state and Feds. In January, they had a call which was the first of its kind that I'm aware of, where they asked if anybody wanted to submit bridges for maintenance. They'd not done that before. It's usually full replacement. So, maintenance is things like bridge deck repair and overlay, substructure repair, not full deck replacements. They will not fund that. So, we put in 8 bridges for a bridge deck repair, and overlays in the county. And I have a list longer than that then just the 8. I don't know how many of those they'll award. We've not heard back yet for the 4 from November. They gave me, we had a meeting with INDOT, and they pretty much said that we may get the 3, but the 4th, maybe not. It's historic non-select on 750 West. The 8 bridges, they did send out an email a couple weeks after it was due, and asked if anyone if they were awarded, the bridges they asked for, could they pay for the engineering for it with local money. My answer was no. There's no way. It was, I think close to 1.7 million. There's no way. So, we want that 80%, so how many they'll

give us, I don't know. They've had, I guess, several applications, a lot more than what they have money for. So, on the list, that I put together, did everybody see that, or do I need to hand that out? If anybody needs one, I have extras. What we're here for, I'm here today for, is to ask for money, of course, Wind money. I can't get it all done with just either motor vehicle out of highway, Cum bridge. I'm trying to extend what we can with Federal Aid, trying to get as much as we can. That's 80% reimbursement on everything, design, construction, construction inspection, and even right-of-way. I'm asking for all of them. So, I went out three years. So, this tells me where the money is coming from, and when I expect it to be due, and what year 23, 24 and 25. I went out two additional years. The first year, 23, we're spending \$1.3 out of bridge roughly, and we're needing about, well it's almost \$1.3 out of Wind. But out of that \$1.3, there's \$524,000 reimbursement. If you spend it, you'll get 80% back. That's with Federal money. So, then the net would be \$738 thousand. And then in 24, we're spending about \$737,000 in Cum bridge, which is pushing it, because we only get between 3 and 400,000 a year, okay. So, we're going to get some back with Federal money. The Wind is almost \$2.4, but of that almost \$1.2 million will come back from Federal money, so the net is \$1.2 roughly. And then in 2025, that's the big hit. Wind is \$3,063,000, but it's, we get \$1.2 million. But here's the thing, when we get that money back, that cash is still there for the following year. So, it stays in that fund or in that category, then we can move it over and then reuse the money we got back from the Feds. So, that'll help a little bit with the expense. Now, those 4 bridges and those 8 bridges from January are in this list. So, this could go down, if we're not granted those projects. The other thing is, we have 3 bridges right now out for bid. And that's 162, 174 and 175. The second, third and fourth ones on the list. And those are south of Parker City. And they're a bridge deck repair and overlay.

Missy said can you say those again?

Joe Copeland said 162, 174 and 175.

Tom Chalfant said those are the three pink ones down there at Stoney Creek together.

Joe Copeland said yeah. And, yeah, they're all real close to each other. And that bid is due March 20th. So, we'll know exactly what those numbers will be at that time. And these are, the Federal, the 8 other bridges and 4 bridges in November are estimates. So, those, until we get the contract, we won't know exactly what those numbers are. We're estimate, also we've estimated construction like we did on 162, 174 and 175. And those three are accumulative to \$341,687.00 alone. That's construction match, those, that's Community Crossing matching grant fund project, so the State will give us 75%. We pay a matching 25. We don't have to pay that one up front. They give us the money up front, and then we only pay or 25% share. Included in that is construction inspection. So, it's roughly not to exceed \$342,000 for those three. Another note, you can see that there's money coming out of motor vehicle highway, \$1.6, it's actually been raised to \$1.8, right Mike?

Mike Haffner said well you know, we've got additional's for today for paving and chip and seal. But in April, you'll see another \$800,000 out of 1176, and a million out of 1173 to support all these small structures that we've been inspected last year and ongoing this year. And hopefully, all that \$1.8, it's going to be close, but we were projecting that money should bring us up to

speed so when we have to replace those structures, we'll use all the MVH money to support that. So, when, shouldn't have to support any of these small structures that we're putting in.

Joe Copeland said that'll come out of our motor vehicle highway.

Mike Haffner said yeah.

Joe Copeland said we've replaced several, what was it, 6 or 7 smaller culverts. I'm working on the design on I believe 5 right now, larger culverts, and the inspection for these culverts between 6 feet and 10 feet will be done this year. I'm sure they're going to find more. Some of them, they're saying need immediate replacement. They're that bad. That's the recommendation. I've seen some pretty, pretty rough, I did the inspection on those 6-foot and less. Yeah, I saw some pretty bad ones. And I've seen something I'd never seen before using stone, blocks of stone. I had not seen that before. That was new. Do you have any questions or do you want to know which jobs with the Federal Aid we applied for that help? There were 4. Bridge 308 on Short Street, bridge 114, which is historic non-select on 300 South, bridge 212 over at Union City, 250 North, west of 800 East, and the other one is bridge 284, 750 West, south of 100 South. And that's historic non-select.

Tom Chalfant said and that one probably won't get replaced.

Joe Copeland said that one probably, they hinted that they may not approve that one for Federal Aid, if it's not.

Tom Chalfant said is, there's nothing in the works either to take the hill off on Highway 1?

Joe Copeland said no. Somebody said that the State had put together some plans of some kind. I wish I could get my hands on those.

Tom Chalfant said they're in the clouds somewhere.

David said okay. Anything else Joe?

Joe Copeland said no that's it. I just need money to continue and get these structures replaced or repaired.

David said so, I guess the commissioners gave \$342,000 from Windfarms, right?

Joe Copeland said yes. Yeah, for Windsor.

David said Windfarm monies.

Joe Copeland said yeah.

David said so, I guess that's up to the county council now. That's both approval by commissioners and the council for windfarm, to do these bridges.

Tom Chalfant made motion to approve. Tom Kerns seconded the motion.

David said I have a motion and a second to approve \$342,000.00 out of Windfarm monies per Joe's request on bridges.

All aye votes. Motion carried.

Todd said just a question on that. Is that part of that \$1.26 that's asked for this year, is that 340,000 a part of that?

Joe Copeland said yes.

Todd said okay.

Joe Copeland said if you add those 3 bridges up, 162, 174 and 175, that's what they are.

Todd said and then the money that comes back you know, it takes some time, so, on this spread sheet it kind of doesn't show that it would apply towards the cost of next years?

Joe Copeland said the cash will be there for use next year, whichever way the council and commissioners want to use it. I have, it may be clear, I don't know, I think I handed this out last time. I'll give you another sheet. The big spread sheet shows the Federal Aid on those bridges that they get it, that are local funded or Community Crossing funded, they're on here too, so, they'll all match up. It may make it clearer. You can look at the list, the bridge number and relate it to what it says here on this list, whether it's green or blue or yellow. The blue is reimbursement from the State. Yellow is our 20% match for construction. A lot of projects.

David said keep it up. We have a lot of bridges.

Joe Copeland said it was funny because this year they, last year they did the what they called the phase two inspection, which is a full inspection of the bridges. And whenever they find what they call a critical finding, in other words, they find bridges that are so bad that need maintenance now. Some of them are now, they give you thirty days on some, but if it's bad enough, you've got to do it right now. We had one of those that had to be done right now, and we had what, about 7 others?

Mike Haffner said about 7 others.

Joe Copeland said that we had to get done in 30 days, whether it be erosion or, you know, there were several guard rail posts that had been hit on a bridge and needed reattached to the structure and yeah. Luckily, we had the contractor working in the county that did the work, and two, we had money to be able to fix it. And one structure was so bad that we had to close it. That was bridge, what, 284, the one on 750 West. We had one member that was completely gone. It was separating. And they didn't even want four-wheelers on it. It was that bad. So, we had to put a bunch of posts, Mike had posts put up, sign posts to keep people from crossing it.

Tom Chalfant said that's the one where the landowner had land on both sides. He put a culvert in so he was glad the road is closed, but there's a blind spot on Highway 1 and 200 South. And if you, there's a hill, you have a low vehicle you can see trash trucks, but you can't see anything else coming over the hill. So, it's a matter of time before it'll be a problem.

David said okay. Anybody else?

Missy said what does it take to be proactive rather than reactive on all of these. I know you're working really hard.

Joe Copeland said money.

Missy said money.

Mike Haffner said that's exactly why we're transferring and we're appropriating a lot of money that we've had in surplus, all of our MVH to support all these small structures and bridges. We're very fortunate that we've probably had three years of projects that we weren't able to complete on road projects, but it doesn't do any good to pave a road or chip and seal a road and then have to shut it down because we've got a bad structure or bad bridge. So, it almost has to take priority on the structures and bridges. There's a juggling match how much you do.

Missy said I guess that's my question. I read that report and it does seem like you've had a lot in balance, a balanced fund, and I'm thinking why haven't we been spending that on doing some of these repairs in years past.

Mike Haffner said well we didn't have an engineer just like the bridge on 159, I've tried to replace that since the day I came in the door. That's on 500 West, just north of 28. And without an engineer, and having to hire all that done, and even talking to bridge companies, that was going to cost us over \$600,000 to do. And when Joe was hired, I think we did that project below \$300,000. The same way with these small structures. I'm not an engineer, and then if I have to go hire \$60,000 worth of engineering to determine what kind of structure goes in there, it almost doubles your cost. So, why I didn't get these projects done, some of it was just lack of experience on my side of the fence, and understanding of what was priority and what was not priority, because we've never had a small structure inspection. So, it was hard to determine on my part, hey is this structure bad, or has it still got 5 to 10 years of life in it. So, with all the tools that's been put on the table with hiring firms to be able to inspect, and then with Mr. Copeland coming on board, it gave us the tools to make these proper decisions.

Joe Copeland said I want to thank the council and also the commissioners that I was able to, when we found those critical findings on the phase 2 inspection, we were able to take care of it. My biggest fear is Henry County now has a phase 2 inspection this year. Money is a problem. I've been warning them. I may have to close some structures in Henry County.

David said that's not good.

Joe Copeland said yeah. So, thanks again.

Conan Wallace and Jim Michael, Airport Board – Request funding for hanger repair

Conan Wallace said morning. I'm Conan Wallace. I've vice president of the Randolph County Aviation Board. Jim Michael is the treasurer. We're here, because in our 2023 budge, we had repair of our hanger. That's the hanger, it's about a 46 by 51-foot hanger. It's just east of the current terminal. It's actually a stand-alone hanger. If you look at it, it looks like a 5-foot gap between the terminal and this hanger. It's about a 50-year old structure. It was built in the 1970s. And like I said, we had it in our budget to repair the siding and the roof for \$25,000.00. That's in our 2023 budget this year. After we actually finally got a contractor to come out and look at it, it's going to be about \$25,000.00 to re-skin basically, a new roof and a new siding. But we also need to replace the insulation under the roof and on the siding. It's just deteriorated over the years. You can see from the pictures, if you look at the, you know, the roof is kind of whopper-jawed. The same way with the bottom of the panels on the siding. The rivets are pulled out. They're rusted. Birds are getting in. when you have a good windstorm its, the building is shaking.

Jim Michael said yeah you can see in the picture where some of the rust is, one of the things, you know, buildings have changed the way they build things. But like when that building was built, the metal was just put on the concrete. Nowadays when they build the metal buildings, they put that layer of insulation underneath the metal to keep it from rusting out. So, a lot of the channel that runs along the floor inside has rusted out, the doorways have rusted out just because really when it was built, they didn't build things the way they do nowadays to prepare for this type of thing. So, there's additional expenses that we wasn't really preparing for.

Conan Wallace said but it is a good building. You can see it's got a nice metal structure. I don't have a picture of the concrete floor, but it's got a good concrete floor, so, it's definitely worth putting money into. We just didn't anticipate doing, and we're also going to add, we just have four-inch gutters on that building now. We're going to go to six-inch gutters, and we're going to redo the framing on the overhead door in our budget. So, we're asking for an additional \$13,000.00. We only had \$25,000 in this year's budget. Our quote came in for just under \$38,000.00. We got a quote from Hatzell Brothers out of Redkey.

Tom Chalfant said do you know what kind of insulation they're going to put in? Is it the same?

Jim Michael said it's vinyl back.

Tom Chalfant said okay. So, it's hard?

Conan Wallace said what do you mean by hard?

Tom Chalfant said well it's not the stuff that's in there now, that is just loose hanging.

Jim said yeah the new stuff is, it's just like what they put in about all pole barns, the vinyl backed.

Tom Chalfant said I mean thirty years ago, we put in that foil stuff that's soft and wired.

Jim Michael said yeah, that's what's there. And, I actually met the contractor out there yesterday. And he you know, was showing me, as soon as we take those panels off that stuff is just going to deteriorate and be on the ground, and there's no putting it back up at that point.

Missy said how many quotes did you get on that job?

Jim Michael said we was only able to get one. We contacted three different people and nobody showed up. I don't know if it's too small a job or they don't want to work for the government. I don't know what, they just don't have the employees to do the job. I have no idea. I tried Rim Construction out of Union City, one of the Goodhew's up in Ridgeville, and then another guy out of Richmond. And nobody would even call me back or wouldn't show up. This was the only ones that showed up. And they came out two or three times.

Missy said what's stored in that hanger? How many planes are stored in there?

Jim Michael said there's two planes in there right now. And if you go in there, like one of them is, you know, it's a \$300,000 plane and it's just covered with bird droppings and the insulation debris that's fallen down on top of it, stuff like that. And that's another thing, you know, when I met with them yesterday is I pointed out a lot of areas, the way the hanger was built that left a lot of gaps for birds to come in. And that's, some of the insulation, you can see the pictures where it's just chewed away and torn away from birds getting in there. They're going to box the ends to keep the birds from getting out.

Missy said so what do you charge a person, the owner of that plane? What's he pay to store that plane in that hanger?

Jim Michael said that hanger is \$145.00 a month.

Missy said is that pretty comparable, do you know, to other?

Jim Michael said yeah, that's about what it is. It's comparable for the other hangers out there and then, like Jay County.

Missy said and you don't have it in your budget anywhere to cover that excess?

Conan Wallace said no. \$25,000 is what we had for hanger repair in our 2023 budget. We were pretty slim on our other repair items, there are things that we need to do.

Jim Michael said yeah, we did come to the council last summer, last fall, to ask for not really a loan.

Conan Wallace said basically, it was a loan.

Jim Michael said yeah, and advancement to pay for a taxi way fund, or project that's already been approved and is coming, and we ended up not needing that because of some federal grants that came through.

Conan Wallace said right. The contractor couldn't do it last year so, it was not getting it done until this year. By this year, we did get the money. So, we didn't need the advancement.

Tom Chalfant said and we changed the, we put a line in for the fuel so that your, hopefully, all the fuel sales would go to repair and replace your fuel equipment.

Conan Wallace said that was turned down. The commissioners okayed it, but it was turned down by the council.

Jim Michael said and we have, since you brought up fuel, just for the month of January, we sold about 300 gallons more in January this year than we did last year. So, we're already making more money than we did.

Tom Chalfant said have you assessed the other buildings? Do you know what kind of shape your other hangers are in? Are they going to face the same problem?

Conan Wallace said the two hangers to the west are T hangers that are potentially going to get replaced in 24, maybe 25. And that's a pretty much, you know, it's basically, 90% Federal, 5% State, 5% local. And were potentially going to get designing work done this year on that. So, yes, we're, of course we built the hanger a couple years ago that's being rented out right now by Sunrise Aviation.

Tom Chalfant said that's been profitable hasn't it?

Conan Wallace said yes.

Jim Michael said yes, he pays every month, and there's months he doesn't even have anything in there.

Tom Kerns said I'll make the motion. I think we've got to take care of our assets. I'll make the motion we go ahead and approve the additional funding.

Missy said second.

Tom Kerns said probably just out of General.

Laura said so, we'll have to do an additional appropriation, but we'll get that processed. It takes about a month to get that money.

Jim said they won't be able to do the work until this summer anyway.

David said it's been moved and seconded we approved an additional \$13,000 for the airport hangar. All in favor.

All aye votes. Motion carried.

Jim Michael said just because I'm inexperienced, do you guys need a copy of the quote?

Laura said yeah that would be great. You can just email it to me or if you've got a copy now, that's fine. Thank you.

Other Business:

Report from Commissioners

Mike Wickersham said morning. We had an agenda about, probably now quite as long as yours, almost yesterday. I'm going to highlight five things that we talked about. The first item was we heard from Jake Donham, our facilities manager, that he is having difficulty replacing two part-time custodians. And he requested we convert those two part-time custodians to a full-time custodian. And we thought that was an appropriate thing to do, so we accepted that recommendation, and voted to approve that. So, at some point in time, I think the salary ordinance is going to have to be amended. But until that time, if he gets one hired, I think we, Laura said we could move money out of part-time line to pay the new full-time person.

Tom Chalfant said is that like a split, two different locations, one person will cover.

Mike Wickersham said I think it gives him that option. I'm not sure he's determined how he's going to do that. But I think it gives him that option. So, right now, he's covering some time. And he's got one off on sick leave so, it's been kind of tough for him. Second thing, we talked to, heard from Duane Petry, our EMS director and found out that the ambulance that we've had on order for, I don't know, several months now, they've run into a hiccup, in that we ordered an ambulance with a 2023 chassis. They can't get us a 2023 chassis. It's going to be a 2024 chassis, which is going to cost us \$20,000.00 more, which is a little disappointing, because we have a contract signed by both parties that says what it's going to cost. And it didn't include the 20,000. I think we're going to pursue that and maybe involve our legal counsel to try to hold them to that. The more disappointing news is that we don't even know when we're going to get that ambulance. And it's getting time that we need it. So, Duane proposed that there is a 2022 demo, demonstration ambulance in Michigan that is for sale for \$239,450.00. And his thinking is that whatever we decide on the ambulance we've had on order for a year now, not knowing when it's going to come, it could be well into another year before it gets here. So, we should take the opportunity to buy this one now. And so, we voted to buy the demo for \$239,450. It's subject to two things. One is a secure locking narcotics cabinet that all of our ambulances have, as well as an installed load system, which we own a load system that we were going to put into the ambulance that we had on order. But, since it's not coming, we're going to negotiate to have the load system put into the demo that we just agreed to purchase. And we're going to take that from ARPA funds is what we're asking that money to come from. In the short term, we're going to use the money we've already appropriated for the new ambulance to pay for the demo ambulance and then replenish it that way. So, I guess some commissioner creative financing. We've got a councilman on our commission now so, he keeps us straight on all that finance and stuff. So,

that's pretty good stuff. Third thing, good news, and I don't know if you've heard, but we lost our, executive director at community corrections. She retired after, I'm not sure how many years in that position, but she'd been there a long time. And, I think it was our January meeting, we appointed Rhoda Davis as the interim director, temporary director. But the advisory board recommended that Rhoda be appointed permanently to that position and the County Commissioners accepted that appointment as a good thing. And I think Rhoda will do a good job there for the county. I should go back to the EMS. I want to share with you, we've been negotiating with some citizens about entering a lease in Farmland for a new EMS structure. And right now, we're leasing space from the Farmland Fire Department, which we've heard from them that they're okay for us to stay there, but it's supposed to be a temporary place, but they don't want us to leave. So, I'm not sure how I balance that. They don't want us to leave, but it's also supposed to be temporary. So, we received a proposed lease from a property owner, or soon to be property owner in Farmland to convert the carwash to a, I believe a, well I'm not sure, but the one-bay, two-bay, living quarters. I'm not really sure what the design is going to be.

Tom Chalfant said I think, well one bay to start with, with room to add on.

Mike Wickersham said one bay and one bay to add on. We saw the lease, and we felt like based upon the terms of the lease, we might be in a better position just to own our own facility. So, the lease was pretty landlord favored, more so than, we did respond or having Meeks respond to the attorney for the landlord that we would be interested in leasing for the lease amount of \$1,000.00. We couldn't lease it for ten years because that takes an annual appropriation to do that. So, we'd be, kind of tied our hands there, if I'm saying that correctly.

Meeks said I believe everything over a three-year lease the statute requires, it's subject to annual appropriations of the county council.

Mike Wickersham said so, then we also just basically, we would be looking at wanting to be a standard landlord/tenant lease where we pay the utilities and the landlord takes care of repairs and maintenance on the building, insurance for the building and the real estate taxes on the building. So, we're waiting to hear back from there. In the meantime, there is property available in Farmland that may be available for us to purchase at a very small amount if we're willing to invest in a building for an EMS facility there.

Tom Chalfant said is that the lot on the north side of Farmland?

Mike Wickersham said I think it's on East Jackson Street. I'm gathering it's east of the intersection.

Tom Chalfant said yeah, two blocks. It's a small lot. It would be, it would have to be some work to get a building to fit it.

Mike Wickersham said we're just investigating those options. But in the meantime, we're in the fire department. They're happy to have us, but would like us not to be permanent. And then, the last thing we talked about was the meal per diem, which I see is on your agenda. And we basically, decided to amend the handbook to indicate that the county would follow what the state would, state of Indiana would do with regards to meal per diem for our employees that are going out to state sponsored events, or out-of-state. The state, as of right now, is \$41.00 a day for meals for in-state conferences, and \$52.00 a day for meals for out-of-state conferences. So, the handbook would remove any per meal requirement and

increase it from 26 now to 41. And I think that covers about all we took care of yesterday. We did, you heard, we agreed to the Wind Farm support of the bridges. We, I don't know, we took that out of Head Waters 1 is what we recommended that to come out of. Any questions?

David said thanks for coming in again.

Tom Chalfant said was there any talk about moving community corrections downstairs? No discussion about that?

Mike Wickersham said oh, in here?

Tom Chalfant said yeah.

Mike Wickersham said no, no discussion about that.

Tom Chalfant said just a thought.

Mike Wickersham said yep. We are going to have that room empty one of these days pretty soon, so we could consider what we are going to do with it. Thank you.

David said thanks Mike.

Letter to Judge Arnett on Courthouse security

David said next item we have our letter to Judge Arnett on Courthouse security. This is something Missy put together.

Missy said yeah. I have some concerns personally when I walk into the courthouse and realize there's absolutely no security. Anyone can walk in. I know we have signs posted now that say no firearms. And who's, I mean, who's enforcing that? Who's looking, who's checking to who's coming in? If there would be an issue in the courthouse, I know they can get help here, but it's, it would have to be several minutes away. We're one of the few courthouses in the state of Indiana that does not have some kind of security. We also have three entrance and exits and so they can come in and go out a variety of ways. We also have that publicize it, offices that handle cash that are very close to outside doors, that I think are in some jeopardy of possibly, of having action taken against them to rob their funds. It just concerns me with the way everything's going in society today that it's basically, in and out. I see now that the firearms, I'm hoping that that's enforced. We had the one about no video recording in the hallway, which, until you work with kids, and I mean, you know, there are some kids in school who have no, you can't take photos of them, because they're in a protected situation, where another person can't know where they're at. When you allow video recording out in that hallway, and a mother is sitting there with her two children, and she's trying to get one of them to where their face can't be seen, so somebody couldn't identify it if somebody's going to record, and then possibly put it on social media. And the person they're trying to, with a better word, escape from or at least get refuge from, can see that. I think we just need to look at some security in what we can do. And it's not to keep anybody out. It's just to kind of make sure that all the people who work in the courthouse are protected.

David said so what's the council think on that?

Tom Chalfant said trying to find the letter.

Meeks said can I interject for a second? You cannot go to Delaware County, I go to all of these counties, Henry County, Wayne County, just walk in there. I would challenge, next time you're in Muncie, go, because you cannot walk into any of those. Jay County has a, they have a security guard.

Missy said yeah, they have a security.

Meeks said Blackford does not, but they have, when they have juries, they have somebody out there. Then they have a, you know, you walk through a metal detector. I can tell you that. I've been to all of those counties like a bunch of times. And I remember how they made conversation with Bud Carpenter years ago. So, that can't happen here. Well that happened here. That lady got shot in the RCFFO building ten feet from where I used to sit. So, to say it can't happen here, it has, and that's when the state got serious about all the security, because of the incident that happened in Randolph County at the RCCFO building. That's all I'll say. If you can figure out what my feelings are about this, let me know. But the Supreme Court has put out two or three statements about courthouse security. We are not in compliance with what the Supreme Court has told us to do. I will tell you that. Now, can the Supreme Court mandate it, can the Courts mandate, yes. So, to take a proactive stance on it is probably better, because at some point, that's going to be mandated. And whatever they mandate, you're not going to like.

David said it's a good letter that Missy put together.

Missy said and I'm not saying you don't let employees come in and out the other two entrances and exits, or the two on the east and west side. They could have, I don't know, a key, a swipe card, something to where they wouldn't, if they have to park somewhere and then always walk all the way around to the front. I'm not saying that. I'm think you can work some situations out where they can come in and out. But, I think we really need to look at it. I mean, schools have been doing it. At the minimum, as soon as we could, we need to put some kind of a, at school, you have a panic button underneath the desk. So, if someone comes in, you push the panic button and then the police are quietly notified and can get there. So, I just, it kind of bothers me. I don't want to wait until something happens. And I hope it never happens, and we do all this for nothing. You want to welcome people into the courthouse at all times. But you also want to protect your employees and other persons who are at the courthouse.

David said any questions on that?

Tom Chalfant said I don't disagree. It's just if we're looking at another quarter to half a million dollars a year, what are we going to give up? It may not, you know, we're going to have some hard choices. What are we going to give away to get courthouse security? Hopefully, we can figure out something that's going to be a minimal annual cost, but I don't know what that is.

David said we'll have to run through the numbers on that. But I agree with Missy, I think it needs to be done.

Mike said I do too.

Tom Kerns said we've been talking about it for ten plus years.

Meeks said since the lady got shot. It's been longer than that Tom.

Tom Kerns said I've only been around for. What we need to do is start step-by-step.

David said I would think we would entertain a motion just to get the ball rolling and get this letter off to the Judge Arnett and see if we can start getting numbers put together to move it forward.

Meeks said I will say I thought there was a security committee at some point.

David said there is. I think they're going to meet the end of this month sometime.

Tom Chalfant said there's a mandate by the state legislature too. We have to file a report on courthouse security.

Meeks said It's going to get mandated. You guys are going to have to do something. It's just a matter of time. And that's something that you're going to have to hire two or three people for. I don't know how many.

Todd said is this the government body that needs to make that decision?

Laura said I'm not positive, but I think the sheriff is in kind of?

Tom Chalfant said yeah, you're going to

Laura said Art? Sorry to put you on the spot, but I think you have a lot in this.

Art Moystner said you're absolutely fine, and you're absolutely correct. So, courthouse security falls underneath the authority of the sheriff. So, that's where that would lay, and of course, it would have to be funded. I think that's something that there would be a need to be several people come to the table to set up exactly what we're going to do, and how we're going to do it. And my issue, as I've discussed before, and I know that myself and Dave have talked before about this. You want to make sure you have the manpower to do that, however you're going to set it up, and make sure you can do so properly. I know Meeks and I have talked because we're not, you know, I've heard comments made about Delaware County and Henry County and some of the other counties. And if you go to their court systems, absolutely, they have a criminal justice center. The only thing contained in there are courts or courts and the sheriff's office. They don't have the other elected officials in there. So, you get into some issues at the front doors on the first floor of what you allow and don't allow. And when you get to the third floor, that changes a little bit, once you go beyond the archway and go into the courts, because there are some judicial considerations that are taken at that point, which allows us to be a little more restrictive in that area based on some of the rules the Supreme Court has put down. So, it's something that we would have to talk out and look at, but all of us need to be at that table and discuss how to do that, and do it properly without shorting us anyplace else in the area of public service in public safety. So, I think it's something that I don't disagree, we do need to look at it. I think we're one of, the last time I looked, maybe one of three counties that are not currently have security in the courthouse. I know there's a couple in southern Indiana,

I've read recent case law on regarding some of the things that they've tried to implement with their security, and they are a traditional courthouse like we are. They have additional elected officials besides just the courts in that building. So, that complicates it on the first floor. The third floor is pretty simple, you can, the courts have the authority to restrict them as they see fit.

Meeks said Art's talking about cell phones. And it hasn't been decided whether or not you can restrict all cell phones in the traditional courthouse

Art Moystner said correct.

Meeks said I think you can. Art doesn't think you can.

Art Moystner said I disagree. The third floor is one thing, the first and second floors are another matter.

Meeks said third floor for sure, we could restrict that.

Art Moystner said yes, but the first and second floor, I disagree.

Meeks said you can restrict phones in the old building.

Art Moystner said correct.

Meeks said that is absolutely, that is clear cut.

Art Moystner said but I think with the right to record your public officials, on the first and second floor, you have a right to do that constitutional.

David said okay. Any other questions? Thanks Art.

Tom Kerns said just need to get started.

Bob McCoy said hey Dave, didn't Chris Shaneyfelt put together something, I'm going to go back, let's say 7 years ago, some sort of plan?

Meeks said yeah, 7, 10 years ago, a plan floating around.

David said yes, he did.

Bob McCoy said I know he pointed out a lot of inefficiencies in this building when it comes to security. So, I don't know if anyone's got a copy of that, but that may be a starting point.

David said actually, Judge Arnett has got a copy of that.

Missy said I think I got a copy too.

Meeks said and there was one 15 years ago too, floating around somewhere. But that was before this was

renovated so, it's probably.

David said okay. I would recommend we send that letter on to Judge Arnett.

Mike said I'll make a motion to send the letter regarding Courthouse security to Judge Arnett.

Missy said second.

David said it's been moved and a second, we approve the letter to Judge Arnett on courthouse security. All in favor?

All aye votes. Motion carried.

Rainy Day/Wind farm monies

David said okay the next item is the Rainy Day/Wind farm monies. I've had that put on there because we need to sit down with the commissioners sometime and our current Rainy-Day fund is only about 1.1 million, which is not much by today's standards that in case we have a critical thing come up.

Tom Chalfant said do you know how old that is, that ceiling, how long it's been 1.1 million?

David said it's been that for a while. There's not been any new money added.

Tom Kerns said just, I was going to say, for the 12 years I've been around, its been right in that category.

Tom Chalfant said just add inflation and so forth. We're way under.

David said I know Madison County, they put in a \$125,000 a month to literally, it goes up to about. So, in the future, we need to sit down in here and get that going.

Tom Kerns said the other thing with Rainy Day, as our reserves are increasing and they look like they are going to continue to increase, we should be able to also shift reserves over to Rainy Day in the future, I would think.

David said for our extra General fund monies, that's what most counties have been doing, shifting it over to Rainy Day.

Meeks said there's a rule about that. You can shift by 10 or 15%. There is a rule that you can't, I think the numbers you guys are talking it won't affect it.

Tom Chalfant said and so that raises the ceiling?

Meeks said it depends on how much is in the General fund how much you can transfer over to a Rainy Day, and it's 10 or 15%.

Tom Chalfant said but that would raise that ceiling 10% a year affecting that?

Meeks said well however much you would get in the General fund. I mean, your General fund is not going to raise.

Tom Kerns said we should talk about that at budget time, to start looking at that too. We haven't had that opportunity in years past because our reserves weren't, but it's looking more positive.

Salary Committee – 2023

David said the next item I have is the Salary Committee. We formed that last year. It started meeting, I would like an April meeting to determine who would like to sit on that. Last year, we had three council members and one commissioner and it worked out pretty well. So, just food for thought for April meeting.

Laura said do you want that added to commissioners' agenda for them to appoint one commissioner?

Davis said yes.

Ordinance 2023-03

David said Ordinance 2023-03. It's an ordinance to amend the salary ordinance 2022-31. This has all to do with the highway maintenance truck drivers and part time and bridge techs and this is the third and final reading today. So, I would entertain a motion on Ordinance 2023-03.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-03

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SALARY ORDINANCE NO. 2022-31 AMENDING RANDOLPH COUNTY'S HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR BUDGET

WHEREAS: There has been a change in the 2023 Salary Ordinance with regard to the Randolph County Highway Maintenance and Repair Budget and it is necessary to amend the 2023 Salary Ordinance No. 2022-31 effective pay date February 24, 2023 as follows:

HIGHWAY AND MAINTENANCE REPAIR

TRUCK DRIVERS TRAINEES (0)

\$18.48 PER HOUR

TRUCK DRIVERS (0)

\$19.48 PER HOUR

TRUCK DRIVERS & PART-TIME EQUIPMENT OPERATORS (11)

\$20.48 PER HOUR

BRIDGE TECH (0)

\$19.48 PER HOUR

EQUIPMENT OPERATORS (4)

\$21.73 PER HOUR

PART TIME SNOW REMOVAL DRIVERS (0)

\$19.48 PER HOUR

PART TIME CDL DRIVERS

\$20.48 PER HOUR

IT IS THEREFORE ORDAINED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF RANDOLPH COUNTY INDIANA THAT:

SECTION 1. Ordinance No. 2022-31, 2023 Salary Ordinance pertaining to Randolph County's HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR BUDGET shall be amended to read as follows:

HIGHWAY AND MAINTENANCE REPAIR

TRUCK DRIVERS TRAINEES (0)

\$18.48 PER HOUR

TRUCK DRIVERS (0)

\$19.48 PER HOUR

TRUCK DRIVERS & PART-TIME EQUIPMENT OPERATORS (11)

\$20.48 PER HOUR

BRIDGE TECH (0)

\$19.48 PER HOUR

EQUIPMENT OPERATORS (4)

\$21.73 PER HOUR

PART TIME SNOW REMOVAL DRIVERS (0)

\$19.48 PER HOUR

PART TIME CDL DRIVERS

\$20.48 PER HOUR

Tom Chalfant made motion to approved. Todd seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Meal Per diem

David said Meal Per diem. I heard Mike talk about that, \$41.00. I guess I'd like to approve it through the council also, because of the food costs have gone up drastically.

Tom Kerns said I'll move we approve following the state, what the state does.

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

Additional Appropriations:

Commissioner's

Contractual Svcs	\$77,028.00
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David said Additional Appropriations. Contractual services Commissioners. Laura do you know what that's for?

Laura said yeah, that's for our IT services contract. We pay it monthly, and we don't have enough to finish paying them this year.

David said okay. I'd entertain a motion to have additional appropriation for contractual services for commissioners on LEAP.

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

Missy said while we're talking about that real quick, the young man who is here doing the technology now, he really does a nice job and he stays in his lane and does his job. I appreciate that.

Laura said thank you. I think Joe does a good job.

Commissioner's

Employment Separation	\$20,000.00
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David said next additional is Employment Separation of 20,000.

Laura said we had quite a few people leave the first of the year, so we depleted that line.

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

EDIT

Winchester Motor Sports	\$50,000.00
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David said okay. Next additional is the EDIT for Winchester Motor Sports of 50,000. I'd entertain a motion.

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

Tourism
Winchester Motor Sports \$50,000.00

David said the next item I have is from Tourism advertising of the sign at the race track of 50,000. I'd entertain a motion.

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

Highway
1173 Restricted \$900,000.00

David said okay the next one is for the Highway of 900,000 from their 1173 Restricted, additional appropriation.

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

Todd asked is this the \$1.8 that he was talking about or is this totally different, just coincidental that these add up to the same number?

Laura said well I don't, no, because this is all for road projects.

Todd said it has nothing to do with culverts.

Highway
Landfill Host \$900,000.00

David said the next one we have is Landfill Host of 900,000.

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

Highway
Wheel Tax \$800,000.00

David said okay the next one is the Wheel Tax for road projects 800,000. I'd entertain a motion.

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

Transfers	From	To
Health Coop Agreement \$440.00	Unappropriated	Mobile phone

David said Health Coop Agreement, unappropriated to mobile phone for Tammy Pruitt. I'd entertain a motion.

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

Citizen Comments (3-minute limit)

David said any citizen comments?

Art Moystner said I had a couple of deputies here today I could introduce Jordan Alfrey and Josh Geesy, they came in last week in my office and was wondering how some of this stuff worked with county government. So, you might see them in and out of meetings at times if they're not taking road calls and educating themselves, but they are a couple upcoming stars with the department. So, a couple of things I wanted to put on your radar. We've been hit pretty hard with the building at the beginning of this year. And have pretty much went through our building maintenance already with the issues we've had. So, you are going to see an additional appropriation come through next month for your council meeting to try to put some money in there for anything that pops up that has to be fixed right now. Then I would have that money for anything obviously, that's bigger that's a project I would be bringing to you for approval and the commissioners as well, as we figure those out. But I wanted to put that on your radar as to why you are going to see that additional appropriation. I also wanted to make sure that you had all received an email that I'd sent out this morning. One of the things that's probably not going to hit me in the next couple of weeks, but over the next several months could, Winchester's city council last night, gave a 12% raise to their emergency services if I'm correct, with 5% coming again at the beginning of the year?

Bob McCoy said that's subject to council approval.

Art Moystner said so that's still subject?

Bob McCoy said that's for 2024, and it's subject to their approval.

Art Moystner said okay. So, what they're looking at is trying to get their pay up. I know they've been having issues hiring individuals. I don't know what their openings are currently, but I do know they have openings. And one of the things I don't want to do is start losing my people. With the pay raise they gave them effective immediately, I think that puts them somewhere between 4,000 and \$4,500.00 over top of our road base. They also receive overtime pay instead of comp. They also receive holiday pay. So, that make them competitive with us. And I don't want to get into a situation where we're leaving for them and they're leaving for us by any means. But, I wanted to make you aware of that, that they've got that pay raise. So, that would be an attractive move for a young officer. I would also share with you at the first of the year, Jay County moves theirs up and I believe they're paying \$54,000, which would mean nobody has to leave Randolph County to take either one of those positions. A little under \$46,000 is our base. I believe Winchester is a little over \$50,000 for their base now, with Jay County at \$54,000. We have good people. I don't want to lose them.

Todd said could you put a summary or something like that together showing you know, the numbers thrown at me are kind of all over the place. I don't know if you've got, if you could put some sort of.

Meeks said Art, Mike had one. If you get it from Mike. He presented it to the council.

Art Moystner said the numbers, absolutely, I will do that.

Meeks said everybody else may

Art Moystner said I've also been waiting, and one of the things I try to provide, before the budget season is I try to provide any numbers that we have counties of similar size and what they're paying now. But they have not put that information out, because usually the sheriffs share that information. It just hasn't been, they're gathering that data now. And it hasn't been sent back to us yet.

Todd said but in reality, you're competing in a radius you know, around you, right?

Art Moystner said absolutely. And I can put the numbers together for Muncie, Delaware County, and obviously I don't expect us, we don't have the same call volume that Delaware County does. I don't expect us to be at the exact same as a larger county, but I would like to be close enough that it's not attractive for our people to leave. I think in today's world, experience is everything. And I've said before, everybody talks about everybody's having a hiring problem. The only way that you end up having hiring a problem is if you have a retention problem. And I would share that I have a retention problem. And I think it's pay based.

Tom Chalfant said so one cheap thing you could do is have all the deputies go to the Winchester city council meetings. That might discourage a little.

Art said I don't know that that would work. I think Winchester is moving the right direction.

Bob said they're at the, and I mean Art's the same way, we're all at the bottom.

Art It's the bottom, I think before you guys gave a pay raise, if I remember what your chief was telling me, you guys were at the, in the 5 percentile of the bottom. And even with what they've done, which isn't a bad raise, they're still in the bottom percentile in the state of Indiana for pay. I think one of the things, and Dave and I have talked about it, you have the infrastructure of, you know, your highways and your bridges, but you have to have the infrastructure of your services. And I think that starts with your emergency services. And it was just 2019 we seen a glaring example of that, right before Christmas.

David said and that's why it's so critical. That salary committee we formed last year, we started up. I'd like to continue that. I'll try to get all those members together to keep it moving to increase.

Art Moystner said well you guys will probably hear me quite frequently, because I think I have a good department full of good people, and I would like to keep them. So, I think this county is blessed to have them, and we need to keep them here.

David said anything else Sheriff?

Art Moystner said not unless you have questions for me.

Missy said how's food services going?

Art Moystner said wonderfully. I think that was a good move. So far, it's working out marvelously. So, I'm hearing a lot of feedback from staff. It freed up some of their time. From the inmates, they're a little happier. I don't know if that's a good or bad thing but. It's, were meeting requirements so, that's just one less thing we have to worry about.

Tom Chalfant said apparently you weren't good in restaurant management.

Art Moystner said I was not.

David said one thing you asked me about the sheriffs' association and the county councils' association.

Art Moystner said getting together.

David said yeah and I brought it up at our district meeting last Thursday night and I planted the seed is what it done. It takes this time to get it moving further.

Art Moystner said and I did the same thing with my association. It just seems like, you know, we're struggling to get our ends to meet, and the state had a surplus last year. And I think if we get the counties altogether, whether it's the sheriffs, in conjunction with the sheriffs' association, the association of Indiana counties, county councils association, county commissioners association, and all of us start talking about the common goals of what we can do, because if we can benefit the county, and all of the offices and eventually the citizens, that's a plus. But I think local government is much more important to have local control than getting up further and further.

David said especially on like bills. I mean, if we had one right now, it's going to affect public safety.

Tom Chalfant said the state legislature has too much control over the taxpayers' purse strings. And that's why half the people live within half an hour of Indianapolis. People are attracted to the power, and that's just like Washington D.C. That's where the power goes. We're too top driven.

Art Moystner said well I hadn't even shared with you, my understanding is they have a bill for the state police, and for the state police the starting salary of a state trooper is going to be \$70,000.00. So, you're going to have a first-year trooper standing in Randolph County making almost twice what a 15-year deputy is making. If you get 10 or 15 years on, they're going to make more than a sheriff running a county jail. So, I think there are some things that have become disproportional in emergency services, and probably everything else that we need to try to address.

Tom Chalfant said well it wouldn't hurt for people to come to the Legislative updates every third Saturday of the month to talk to our state elected officials about that.

Art Moystner said I don't disagree.

Missy said on the 22nd, am I right? Is it the 22nd that there's going to be an association of Indiana counties gathering and then over to the state house to talk to legislators?

Mike said I think it is.

Missy said because they see rural Indiana as whenever you see a stop light, or sign instead of a stop light, around Indianapolis. They don't know what rural Indiana really is, and what we're fighting against. And not to harp on what Art's saying, but in Randolph County, Wayne County, Jay County, if you're an officer and you're on patrol, and you get called to a scene, you are by yourselves.

Art Moystner said and we respond to the same calls that they do in larger jurisdictions. We just don't respond to the volume of those types of calls.

Missy said and so the, according to statistics, it can take up to 17 minutes to get a third officer there. The second one can get there in 11 minutes, which if you are by yourself with someone who may be armed, then it takes 17 minutes and so, it is different. And that's why you do need to attract people to rural Indiana.

Art Moystner said and most of those incidents are over in two, statistically speaking. In less than two minutes, it's over.

Missy said yes. But it's meeting, I don't know, can't remember the information, it's meeting in the, you meet in the morning and talk and gather, then walk over to the state house. Is that right Mike? They'll be in committees?

Mike said I think so.

Missy said so will be able to talk to some of them, yeah.

Art Moystner said does anyone else have any questions?

David said no.

Art Moystner said thank you.

David said thanks. Tom, do you have anything?

Tom Kerns said no.

David said Todd?

Todd said no.

David said Tom? Missy?

Missy said no.

David said I'd entertain a motion to adjourn.

Adjournment

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

Reviewed and accepted this 3 day of May, 2023.

RANDOLPH COUNTY COUNCIL

David Benkenslofer

Beverly Fields

Tom Chalfant

Mike

Quill

Thomas

ATTESTED:

Laura J Martin
Laura J Martin, Auditor