

Randolph County Council

March 4, 2025

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Hearing – Headwater’s III final abatement

David said first item on the agenda is opening of the public hearing. This is for Headwater’s III final abatement only. It’s for the Windfarm.

Wynter Wagoner said morning. I am here for project background, project info. My name is Wynter Wagoner and we’re here again this morning on behalf of Headwater’s III, which is the third phase of Wind for EDP renewables in Randolph County, and we’re requesting that this project area be designated as an economic revitalization area. This designation would require the project to pay a total of 13.89 million dollars to the county over the first 10 years of operations, and that payment schedule is outlined in the economic development agreement, which was approved by the commissioners on December 16th, 2024, along with our decommissioning and road use agreements. And also, just to note this project will invest 411 million dollars in equipment and real estate improvements in this area. Headwater’s III is a 200-megawatt project that’ll be located in the northwest region of the county. The west boundary will be along the Delaware County line and east boundary will be about two miles west of Highway 27. It’ll stretch across Monroe, Green, Whiteriver and Franklin Townships, and it’ll stay north of Parker City and Farmland, and south of Ridgeville. The project will connect the Desoto sub-station in Delaware County and the electricity is generated by this project will help in bolstering our country’s electrical grid, as well as meet the significant increase of energy needs that are currently being forecasted by the regional grid operator, PJM. At this time, the project design and turbine layout is still in process, but we anticipate the turbines to be similar in size to Headwater’s II, which is between 3.6 and 4.5 of megawatt turbines with approximately 45 to 47 locations in a project area. Also note the earliest potential operations date for this project would be the end of 2027. We’ve signed over 100 option agreements to far and we will continue outreach and awareness to all the folks in this project area as we continue to progress further. We also plan to attend and present at local town meetings in Parker City, Ridgeville and Farmland. Thank you for your time this morning and I welcome any questions.

David said this is just for information only. So, we’ll take that.

Wynter Wagoner said thank you.

David said alright, thanks. Anybody in the public like to speak on behalf or against? This is Headwater's III. This is windfarm over by the west side of the county. Seeing no interest on this, we'll go ahead and close the meeting and entertain a motion to close the public hearing.

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

David said entertain a motion to open the regular meeting.

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

Resolution 2025-07 – Headwater's III final abatement

David said okay, first item on our agenda is Resolution 2025-07. It's Headwater's III final abatement. Any questions from the council? Any questions from the public? If not, I would entertain a motion to approve Resolution 2025-07. It's a real and personal property tax abatement for Headwater's Windfarm III, LLC.

Todd made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-07. Mike seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

David said okay, next item we have for Headwater's Windfarm III is statement of benefits for utility distributable property, it's SB1. We need to sign that. Entertain a motion?

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

Commissioner's update – Missy Williams

David said alright, next item on our agenda is the Commissioner's update.

Missy said we had a meeting yesterday. We had several people who were on the agenda, but they were not in attendance, so we skipped over those on our agenda. Andy Fahl of Randolph County United introduced their new director, who I know you're going to meet today and I think you're going to be very impressed. Ed brought some utility agreements, Ed Thornburg, and a river blockage, which we talked about in the meeting after ours and approved that. Joe Copeland and the highway department, the guys brought forth a contract for a sign project, old signs that had been beat up and needed to be replaced at \$164,800.00, but that's 90% reimbursement from the state to get those done. So, they're working on that. Darin James gave us an update and there's been a lot of talk. I know I've talked to him, and I know a lot of you have also talked with him about the coroner's facilities not being, I guess my concern was that you can't back, you have to remove the body to put it in the current area. And it isn't like funeral homes do where you can put the vehicle inside. And it's more discrete. So, they're working some on that too. And he's got some really good ideas there. The trail discussion came up and we had, were updated by Deb Johnting and Kristi Hollaran. If you haven't met her, she's a former educator who is working over there and just loves that job too with working with them. The trail did not receive enough votes to move forward. So, I don't know if they are planning on changing that route again or whatever else. Lots of discussion about going through peoples' property that

made people uncomfortable. And so, I don't know if they'll be back with that. Then, our updates from, of course, the sheriff and the payroll, and things like that. I think that's it.

David said any questions?

Todd said on the loan to Lynn, is there a term on that?

Missy said well they didn't come, and so we didn't do much discussion on that.

Scott said it got tabled until the next meeting?

Missy said yes. It got tabled. There are some other loans out.

Meeks said yeah, well, we have the loan resolution that I sent out.

Todd said I read it but I didn't see anything about a term, the amount of time that the loan was for.

Meeks said well we pay the loan within 30 days of receipt of the funds.

Todd said if they receive the grant?

Missy said yeah.

Meeks said well it's, I think they, they're here I thought.

Missy said yeah.

Meeks said but it's when they're getting a bond. And so, the bond, Missy wasn't at the meeting, but the meeting before, they came and told us they were getting a bond this summer.

Todd said so it's just until that comes?

Meeks said yeah. We did the same thing for Modoc and Losantville. We said we'll loan you and then when the bonds come through, you need to pay us back. So, it almost reads the same way. And it reads, if you don't get the funds and you do spend the money, I don't know if they would be able to pay it back. So, that's if they don't get the grant. I thought it was a pretty hefty project. They'll have to speak to it.

Missy said so, we didn't really hear from them or have a lot of information on that.

Todd said so, it's going to come to us first, as the council?

Meeks said pretty much, yeah. That's what I think the commissioners at the first meeting thought that maybe the council needs to hear it first and then, if you guys approve it, then it'll

come back to them. They were in general agreement with it. I will tell you that. I don't know if Missy

Missy said yeah. I mean, we want to help out our, yeah. But I don't really know a lot about it because I was out of town at the last commissioners' meeting, so, just got back, been back, but was able to be there yesterday and ask some things. Anything else, Dave?

David said the building in Farmland, the ambulance building, is it fully?

Missy said no. Somebody else should probably talk to this because I know nothing about maintenance or anything. There is a drainage issue that needs to be resolved, and so, they need to be hooking into the sewer lines.

Meeks said it's the oil collector. I think they are now tied, I think they're just within days, if not, it might be.

Greg said the main line's been tapped. They just got to get it from the building to the tap, the way I understood it yesterday.

David said okay. So, it's getting closer then?

Greg said it's very close the way they talked yesterday.

Missy said yeah. Anything else?

David said alright. Thanks Missy.

Randolph County United update

David said okay, Randolph County update, Andy.

Andy Fahl said good morning council. I don't have a lot really to report today. As Missy mentioned, we have hired our new executive director. She will be weaning off her current work and be more in the county. Obviously, she's not here today. We're going to have that situation for about the next 45 days. We have made her a contact list of people she needs to immediately get ahold of and of course, the council, all of you are on that list, and toward the top of the list actually. So, you'll be hearing from her. We also, just recently extended the chamber marketing job to Kerry McCoy, which she did accept. And then we have Ruthie Rose as our office manager, so we've went to a 3-person staff at Randolph County United. I don't have any updates currently on the carbon capture at Cardinal. I don't, not, that's a standstill again, there's going to be more, you're going to hear from them soon. We're working on a couple other things, actually big things at RCU that I can't talk about right now, but we're working on it. So, Scott has been your rep and been knee deep in all this and if you've got any questions, he'd be a great resource also. But, have anything for me?

Greg said yeah, Andy, why don't you tell us the lady's name so we'll know who we're talking to.

Andy Fahl said alright, I got to say it. I got to be cautious. It's Sydney Cseresznyes. Sydney Cseresznyes. And the name of her company is Volt Strategies.

David said Scott, you got anything to add to this?

Scott said I think she's going to be a real asset, not only to the RCU but to Randolph County. She's going to be able to bring a lot to the table, with her being so well connected at the State level. I think she's going to be a great asset.

David said okay.

Andy Fahl said she's going to have qualities that we haven't had in the past. I mean, just skill set that we haven't had before, and not knocking anybody previous, but it's something different, and we're trying it.

Greg said just for everybody's information, according to what Meeks had written down, her name is Sydney and then her last name Cseresznyes is spelled C s e r s z n y e s.

Andy Fahl said sounds right.

Scott said I'm sure everybody will remember that.

Andy Fahl said she's got an easy first name to remember, so that's the main thing I guess, but, yeah.

Greg said I wanted to know so I'd know who was calling.

Andy Fahl said sure. We're already got, she's had a contact list for about ten days, right off the bat, so she's obviously got board members and then county government, I think is the next thing on the list. So, as she has time, you'll be hearing from her.

David said okay. Sounds good. Alright thanks, Andy.

Andy Fahl said thank you.

Sarah Black- Harter Park funding request

David said young ladies from the Playground Paradise.

Brianna Williams said so, our instructor, Sarah Black is actually out at the State DECA Conference. But if you guys have any questions for her she's on the phone. Well, good morning everyone. My name is Brianna Williams. I'm a senior at Union City and I'm also the project manager. We would like to thank you guys for taking time out of your morning to listen to our Playground Paradise Project proposal. The reason why I joined this project is because I want to create better opportunities for our community.

Emma Blankely said my name is Emma Blankely and I'm also a senior. And the reason I joined this project is to enhance Union City's quality of life.

Ava Reichard said my name is Ava Reichard and I'm a freshman at Union City, and my reason for joining this group was to create a safer place for children to play. I'm sure many of you in the room have kids, grandchildren or a younger family member you have wanted to take to a park. Have you ever taken them to a park that you thought was unsafe? This is a problem many families in our community have. As you can see in the pictures, there are pieces of broken equipment, which isn't safe for children to play on. This is a problem that needs to be solved.

Emma Blankely said Playground Paradise is a collaborative effort between the students at Union City and the city of Union City to revitalize Harter Park.

Ava Reichard said our goal for this project is to create inclusive, safe and ADA accessible park in Union City.

Brianna Williams said so one of our other major goals within this project is to increase our quality of life and place within our community. We can do this by increasing our physical and mental health, and also economic growth. When families come into our community, it helps support our local businesses, it allows us to have stronger community bonds and build our social skills.

Emma Blankely said so, why is this project necessary? So, the park equipment that's installed at our park right now is about 70 years old, meaning my grandparents played on that equipment when they were kids. They have broken swings. There's mold growing on the equipment and it's not ADA accessible for all the kids.

Ava Reichard said for this project, we're going to be doing it in phases. This is our phase one. In the photo, this is our 2 to 5 structure. This structure will include several benches, sensory items and a swing set, which encompasses a mommy and me swing, and ADA accessible swing along with their traditional swings.

Emma Blankely said so, the location we're wanting to install the new equipment at would be behind the Union City pool. We're wanting to connect pathways from the pool parking lot back to the new equipment. That way it could be accessible.

Brianna Williams said so, then we are also wanting to put activities on the sidewalks. This can help families and children that have sensory issues. If you guys aren't familiar with some sensory issues, it could be things like autism, and then this could help them have another activity in case they don't want to play on the playground equipment.

Ava Reichard said so, beneath our equipment, we are going to use a rubber pour and play. We chose this surface because it's easily accessible for everybody and it also has an 8-foot fall height, which will help limit children from injuries.

Brianna Williams said so, what can we do with \$320,000.00? Just like Ava said, for our Phase One, it includes the 2 to 5 structure, the pour and play surfacing, the swing set and some other sensory items. So, we are currently working with My Community My Vision on a \$35,000.00 matching grant. We are asking the County Council today for \$30,000.00 and your support for our project.

Emma Blankely said so, our total project cost is a little over a million dollars. That includes the 2 to 5 structure, the 5 and 12 structure, double trolley, a swing set, as well as benches and sensory items.

Ava Reichard said this is just a start to our project. In future years, we plan to renew the basketball courts, renew the soccer fields, and eventually, add in a splash pad.

Brianna William said so, within our main project, we have 4 separate groups. So, if you're wondering what we do behind the scenes, we have a marketing group, which creates our fliers, our t-shirts, they create our social media posts, as well. Then we have a grant writing group who works along with our superintendent, Neal Adams, to find grants on line that can help support our project. Then we have the fundraising group. They look for fundraising projects that we can do. We recently did a Romer's chicken dinner. And then we have the presentation team which is us three and a few other students that go around to our local businesses and companies and ask for their support in our project.

Emma Blankely said so, our total donations and community support, as of right now, is \$30,000.00 plus in-kind donations. If you are wanting to donate from cash or checks, you can make payable to the city of Union City and then write Playground Paradise in the memo line. And if you are wanting to donate virtually, you can scan the QR code on that paper and it'll go through our My Community My Grant. And then we're always looking for in-kind donations, so companies to donate services to help remove the equipment. And we truly want this to be a community involvement project. So, we're always looking for feedback and volunteers.

Brianna Williams said so, once again, we would just like to say thank you for taking time out of your morning to listen to our Playground Paradise Project proposal. Lead the laughter, be a playmaker for Playground Paradise.

David said very nice. I've been fortunate to already review this program with these ladies, and it's a very good program for Union City. Do you have any questions for them while they're here, anybody?

Larry said you have \$30,000 already?

Brianna Williams said yes, we do.

Larry said and I know the commissioners suggested a \$10,000 donation.

Scott said actually, I think they said they would give \$10,000 but would increase it to 50,000 if Union City would match the 50,000.

David said it was a 2 to 1 match.

Greg said 2 to 1 match.

Scott said was it 2 to 1 match?

Greg said yes, on the 40,000. 10,000 is already done and they added 40. Isn't that right, Missy?

Missy said yes, I think so.

Greg said but the 40 was a 2 to 1 match.

Missy said yeah.

Larry said so, I guess my question is, if you come up with X amount of dollars, does that allow you to do the first phase or would you start, or?

Brianna Williams said yes. So, with the funds, if we get the \$320,000.00, that would get our phase one in the ground. And then once, if we have more money than that, then we can start on our phase two or our project, which would be the 5 to 12 structure.

Larry said it takes 320 to do the first phase?

Brianna Williams said yes. Majority of that cost is from the pour and play surfacing.

Larry said do you have a goal of timing?

Brianna Williams said we're hoping that we can get phase one in the ground by Fall of 2025, so, this year.

David said the 2 to 1 match is that the county would up to 40,000, have to have a match of 80,000 from the city of Union City, so, just to make clear. The 10,000 I understand is already given for the Patronicity grant to match that. The match on the Patronicity grant is only \$10,000.00. One individual can give up to 10,000. So, I guess it's, what's your wishes? The County Commissioners, I think, laid down a pretty good plan. I would think that, if we could match that, or agree to that, and let the commissioners know that, and we can move forward on the project. Okay, yeah, and Laura said it is \$40,000 from the renewable fund account.

Laura said it's my understanding.

David said right. I talked to Tom, yesterday, on this.

Mike said I talked to Gary and that's what he told me.

Laura said that's what I thought.

David said so, I guess, what's everybody's wishes here?

Scott said I think we should support it.

David said okay. Is that in the form of a motion, Scott?

Scott said I make a motion that we support.

Mike said and I'll second it.

David said it's been moved and a second, we support the Playground Paradise in Union City. All in favor?

All aye votes. Motion carried.

David said and this will be exactly what the County Commissioners want too. So, have you got any questions for us?

Brianna Williams said I don't think so. Thank you.

Mike Straley- Town of Lynn loan \$103,348.50

David said next item on the agenda is Mike Straley, town of Lynn. Is he here? We'll table that until next meeting.

Jay Long and Nate Moore- Highway Overtime Funding Request

David said go right ahead.

Jay Long said basically, we were coming up to go over our overtime funding. I guess we're just asking to see if we could get like \$15,000 added to our overtime. We did do a lot of work in the end of December into January, and then the snow kind of drug out into February. Hopefully, we're passed it now.

Nate Moore said but this is just for administrative.

Jay Long said yeah. It's not for the rest of the guys. That line is still okay.

David said okay. They're wanting a line item for you guys for the overtime?

Laura said they already have a line. They need more money in it.

Jay Long said yeah, we just need more money. Basically, we only had \$5,000.00 added in ours. And we were trying to be careful but unfortunately, with the weather, kind of played havoc in it.

David said okay. Guess we'll need to move some money into that account, and we do that from the general fund.

Todd said where are we at now? What is the amount that we've hit?

Jay Long said I think 5500.

Todd said so, through February, we're at 5500?

Jay Long said uh huh.

Scott said do you see the 15,000 taking you through the end of the year?

Jay Long said yes.

Todd said I'd make a motion that we increase the line item to 15,000 by adding 10 to it.

Mike said are you wanting 10 more or are you wanting 15 more?

Jay Long said we're wanting 15. So, basically, we'd have to move some stuff around, but it would actually give us about \$12,000.00 for our overtime.

Todd said you're wanting 15 in the fund and right now it has 5, right?

Laura said no, they're wanting 15 more.

Scott said 15 additional.

Jay Long said 15 additional.

Todd said what is in there now?

Laura said there was 5 to start with. They've used it.

Todd said I'll make a motion we add 15 to the 5 that was there for a total of 20 for 2025.

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

David said anything else, guys?

Rolland Abraham said I just want you to know I appreciate what you do, as a superintendent here in Randolph County, and I appreciate the communication that we've experienced this last year, and also your willingness to get out there at 5 a.m. That's all big stuff for us. So, thank you very much.

Jay Long said appreciate it. Thank you.

Todd said I just had a question, I drove by there early this morning and the lights were all on. What time do you guys start?

Jay Long said we start at 7.

Todd said and then finish a little earlier then in the normal day? Is it 7 to 4?

Jay Long said 7 to 5.

Todd said 7 to 5. So, is it, is there overtime built into a regular day?

Jay Long said no.

Nate said we work 4 10-hour days.

Mike said they don't work Fridays.

Todd said if I were to come out just go, just to be shown around, is there,

Nate said you can come out today. You can come out anytime on Monday through Thursday.

David said any other questions for them? I just have one. Berming, are we getting ready to start that?

Jay Long said oh yeah. There're a lot of projects we've got going on, getting ready to start. It's about to get busy.

David said this time of year.

Jay Long said this warm weather is really getting us going here, so. And actually, during the wintertime, we have gone through and we've marked a lot of spots that held water, things like that. It's just, we're trying to get past the stage of past the snow, and you know, then it gets rainy season, so we're trying to just catch it before it turns into nothing but mud.

David said it's a balancing act.

Jay Long said oh yeah.

Greg said Jay, down around Losantville on 500, is that going to be the responsibility of the Solar Farm to take care of that road, or are you guys going to be involved in that? It's going to hell in a handbasket pretty quick.

Jay Long said yeah.

Nate Moore said we have guys down there today.

Jay Long said me and Brad have just touched base on that, actually we spoke yesterday and then we just talked again today.

Greg said so it's a cooperative effort?

Jay Long said yes, yes. And it was getting to where, I made a judgment call yesterday. It was getting to where it was starting to get really hazardous for people and I didn't want something to come back, so we actually moved on it yesterday. And they're down there today.

Greg said I just happened to drive down it yesterday. I was surprised how quickly it went down.

Jay Long said yeah. It was like a light, like it just changed overnight.

Greg said it was just in a couple, three days.

Jay Long said yes, yes.

Greg said very good.

Nate Moore said there's another road down there that's getting pretty bad too.

Jay Long said got a lot, got a lot coming so, hopefully the weather plays with us.

David said keep up the good work. Appreciate it.

Jay Long said thank you.

Other Business:

Art Moystner, Randolph County Sheriff

Transfer	From	To
\$5,000.00	TBD	5900 Operation Pull Over

David said other business. Sheriff, do you have anything for us today?

Art Moystner said the only thing I would have is the transfer that's listed later on in your paper, if anybody would have questions for that, I'd love to answer those.

David said for operation pull over?

Art Moystner said yes sir.

Todd said do we have to decide what the TBD is?

Laura said no, the commissioners decided it would come out of General.

Larry said are there certain dates for that Art?

Art Moystner said yes. Those are set by the state. It's a statewide project. And the money that's in that account is, we pay the officers up front, that money is reimbursed by the state.

David said any questions for Art on this?

Mike said so, you say the state does refund that?

Art Moystner said yes. We get reimbursed. Sometimes we have enough guys work that we end up having money out waiting on a reimbursement when another project is working, and we haven't raised that amount since 2017. With recent pay raises and everything, I just want to make sure we don't get ourselves in a jam and not have the money to pay the officers.

Todd said budget question, does the reimbursement go back to the General fund where it came from?

Art Moystner said it goes back into this specific line.

Laura said the operation pull over line. The money goes back into that.

Todd said okay. So, I'm confused, so, we're putting money into the operation pull over fund and then they're going to get a payment back into that fund?

Laura said so, yeah. They re-use it for the next one. It's like they get, we pay it, then they turn the money in for a grant, the grant reimburses it, it goes back into that line to be re-used. And my understanding is the reason they're asking for more is because they're going to have more officers out on the operation pull over.

Art Moystner said correct.

Laura said so, you're going to need more funding than what.

Art Moystner said we've got some younger officers that have started in, so I've got more people that are starting to participate in the operation pull over. Sometimes those blitzes that the state run are close enough that we, when the officers work, we pay the officers out of this line. And we have blitzes close enough that we might have money out and start another blitz already and then that money will come in from the state, we reimburse back into that line. So, it's just a revolving.

Todd said I was just thinking in my checkbook, \$5,000 came out of the General Fund and it's being reimbursed, but some of it's never going back to the General Fund.

Meeks said I think Todd, the struggle is when operation pull over is totally done, there's no more operation pull over.

Todd said which may not happen in a year, right?

Meeks said it may not happen ever. I don't know. But when it does happen, the money in that fund, there'll be money in the fund, and that gets transferred at the end, if there is an end.

Todd said okay.

Meeks said do you see what I'm saying?

Art Moystner said yeah, this money will eventually.

Todd said if the Federal government is paying for, or State, I'm sorry, paying for operation pull over, it feels like we just paid for it, but, putting \$5,000.00 into, am I not thinking correctly?

Meeks said it's like seed money right, because when it's totally ended, there'll be \$5,000.00 left in there and that money then would be transferred to the General Fund.

Art Moystner said we have money in that account currently. I'm just raising it by \$5,000.00 to meet the current or predicted needs in that account. That account has been with us, we've had that account probably since the mid-90s in working this project. And it's, well we've been working the project since the mid-90s, it worked differently. The State came up with rules where we have to pay when they work it, so we have to pay it quickly. So, we need, I need a bowl that I can take that money out of to pay, and then the State puts it back in that bowl. But that bowl always sets there. And if they would ever stop operation pull over, it would revert back to the county.

Todd said okay. Alright, are we ready to make a motion for that then?

David said absolutely.

Todd made a motion to add \$5000 to the operation pull over fund from the general fund. Larry seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Art Moystner said thank you all.

Todd said I understand it now.

Art Moystner said it does get complicated when you do some of the reimbursements and the pass throughs. Does anyone have any other question related to the Sheriff's office for me? If not, I'll get out of your hair. Thank you.

Minutes of February 4, 2025

David said okay the next item on the agenda is the Minutes of February 4th, 2025.

Larry made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Greg seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Redevelopment Commission Appointment (Jeff Oswalt)

Laura said the Redevelopment Commission Appointment for Jeff Oswalt, our Redevelopment Commission had a member resign and that member was an appointment from the council off of your main appointment sheet that you did in the beginning of the year. So, Jeff has agreed to do that. I just need you guys to make that official.

Greg said you need a motion for that, Laura?

Laura said yes, please.

Greg made a motion to approve the appointment of Jeff Oswalt to the Redevelopment Commission. Todd seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Lynn loan Resolution 2025-13

David said next item is a Lynn loan Resolution 2025-13. Do we go ahead without, I would like to hear from him, personally.

Mike said I would too.

Meeks said I asked him about the. I wonder if they figured out another way. But, I don't know, I haven't heard from him.

Greg said the commissioners tabled it yesterday because no one showed up.

David said I say we table it. I think that's a good idea. Okay, we're going to table that until next meeting or until we hear back.

Additional Appropriations:

General

Equipment Purchased **\$16,141.18**

David said the next item is under Additional Appropriations, the General. It's equipment purchase of \$16,141.18. It's for body armor equipment for the Sheriff's department.

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

Tourism

Contractual Services **\$29,300.00**

David said next item is Contractual Services for Tourism, \$29,300. Would you like to try to explain this, Laura?

Laura said the 29,300 is coming from Innkeepers. It's money that Tourism has in their bucket so, it's not county money. But it's to pay, they had an interim director who has since resigned, but we still owe her money, but there's no money budgeted in that line to pay her from for this year. So, they're going to hire a part-time director, and that will also come out of this line. Basically, I need money put in that fund so that we can pay the interim director that was there through the end of the year, and then when they hire a new person. When we did the budgets, they didn't budget that line because that director was being paid through RCU payroll. Then they split out from RCU and now, they're paying it through a claim system, and then we just 1099 that person at the end of the year. Basically, this money is for a part-time director for Tourism.

Greg said it's a lot clearer than what yesterday was.

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

CCMG 2023-2

Bridge 250 \$1,047,231.98

CCMG 2024-1

Bridge 304 \$1,248,750.00

Todd said can we combine the bridges?

David said we can.

Todd said I make a motion that we appropriate these funds from the two bridge funds for bridge 250 and bridge 304.

Mike seconded the motion.

David said I have a motion and second to approve the bridge fund. I'm going to list them here. Bridge 250 at \$1,047,231.98 and bridge 304, \$1,248,750.00. All in favor?

All aye votes. Motion carried.

Citizen Comments (3 minutes)

David said okay next item, is there any citizen's comments out there that would like to come before the County Council today and approach for any reason, for anything? Seeing none, I guess we'll go around the council, see what information they've got. Greg, do you have anything?

Greg said nothing.

Larry Preston – Ed Thornburg approval to remove trees from White River

Larry said I just, Ed, you got the approval to remove those trees from the White River?

Ed Thornburg said yeah.

Larry said for a certain property owner is going to do it?

Ed Thornburg said yeah. We found a fund to take care of it.

Larry said good-

David said Mike?

Mike said nothing.

David said Todd?

Todd Holaday – Area Planning meeting updates

Todd Holaday – Area Planning meeting updates
Todd said yeah. I'll give a few updates from the Area Planning Commission meetings. There's been several over the last month. Three related to the group of property owners in Randolph

County who would like to see the ordinance changed around Solar Farms for increased setbacks. Those are still ongoing. They'll probably have a proposal for the commissioners at the April meeting. There's another meeting that was really well attended for the trail plan. And Ceann Bales and another individual, I cannot remember his name, gave a presentation. This was for an amendment to the county trail plan. They, in the amendment, had included some information about discussions with property owners, how they'd inform people of the proposed layouts of the trail and so on. There's also a map that was included that had alternate, how routes and some alternate routes between different towns in Randolph County, and the connection near Losantville for connecting into the Henry County trail and the Delaware County trail. There were a lot of, there was also a sheet that showed the approximate cost for each of the connections. Just in general, the connections between each city were estimated to be around a million dollars a mile, something like that, just so you have a general idea in your head about how much it cost for these different trails. There were several letters from people in the county in support of the project going forward. There were quite a few people who spoke at the meeting, probably, I didn't take a head count, but probably, maybe 7 for, 3 against kind of ratio. Most of the people who were speaking out against it were not in favor of a trail running through their, between their property and the highway. And they expressed concerns about safety issues for getting on and off across that trail, and also, even safety issues with family members as related to people on the trail. There was another gentleman who gave a presentation about what had been done in the Carmel area, the Monon Trail. There was a lot of discussion, and I just bring it to your attention because it was a pretty, there was a lot of debate and a lot of concern about the future. But the final vote on that was 7 against the amendment and 5 for. It would have taken the 7 for or more for it to go forward. It's not clear now, what comes next, you know, they can reform or reapply or change that amendment and come again, I believe. So, that's just an update basically from that meeting. I just want you guys all to be kind of aware of the mood surrounding that plan and where it currently stands. So, it's not going to go to the commissioners because it stopped at the Area Planning Commission, the amendment.

Greg said Todd, on your first part, talking about the setbacks, you said they were going to present something maybe at the April meeting to the commissioners. Who's they, the Area Planning or some other group?

Todd said yeah, it has to come through the Area Planning Commission. The three or four interested parties who are you know, trying to determine what might be a reasonable request for the commissioners, need to put that in the form of a document. That's kind of where it sits right now. There's been a lot of ideas kicked around about what's reasonable and you know. There's another meeting coming, but it's going to be hard in just one more meeting, I think, for a document to get produced, because there's not a consensus yet on what those setbacks should look like. And even then, it's got to be negotiated you know, in a way, with the commissioners because they've got to be able to agree on that. So, I don't know where that was going to end, you know, how that's going to go. There's been at least 3 meetings so far on it. A lot of the same people who were here at the last, had spoken, the public comments are attending those meetings.

Meeks said are they talking about changing the text of the ordinance or just the setbacks?

Todd said changing the what?

Meeks said the text of the ordinance or just the setbacks?

Todd said well I don't see how you cannot change some of the texts because there were some discussions about setbacks versus, from a house, versus property line.

Meeks said so it's pretty much offset, it's not the, okay.

Todd said it gets complicated, it's complicated.

Meeks said oh, I got that.

Todd said we also discussed, just tell you what the committee discussed a potential minimum and maximum so, you know, the current 40 feet setback, making that a minimum and setting a higher number so the property owners could negotiate on that a little bit that, like, neighbors, you know, if the setback exceeds a certain amount and a company like EDP or somebody wanted to work with them on that they could. Again, it gets really difficult to put that in the language.

David said anything else, Todd?

Todd said no, sorry to take so much time.

David said no, that's good information.

Scott Fisher – Thank you to Andy Fahl and the RCU Board

Scott said I'd just like to commend Andy Fahl and the executive board and the RCU for the time they spent seeking out their new director. Those are unpaid positions on that board and there were a lot of hours and a lot of meetings spent seeking out the best person for the job as well as putting together the job description and what was going to be expected. And Andy and that executive board, they spent a lot of man hours at a job that you know, didn't pay anything, to seek out that right person. And I want to commend them on the job they did for that.

David said okay.

Larry Preston – Broadband support letter

Larry said one other thing, Dave. Todd, did you get your maybe answered we were talking about the broadband support letter and the two runs of conduit?

Todd said I talked to Tom Kerns about that. He explained to me that it's fine to go ahead and offer that to Comcast. It just allows for more choice that, asking them not to overlap with another company, it really doesn't give them an opportunity somewhere else. So, that didn't come back on our agenda this week?

Laura said the deadline was the week of your last meeting.

Larry said I'm sorry, I'd seen it on our last.

Laura said the commissioners went ahead and sent it, with just their signatures.

Todd said so it was fine, I was glad to have it explained because I, I thought maybe we were under serving one area by double serving another area, but that wasn't the case.

David said anything else, Larry?

Larry said no, thanks.

David said Laura?

Laura Martin – Salary Study committee appointments

Laura said I just have one thing. In talking to my staff, the salary study committee, budgets go out to the individual departments like mid-May. We kind of would like, if you're going to do the salary study thing, maybe get it started now and have us some results before we send those out so we can send those results out to the departments and say okay, the salary study committee is looking at 2% or whatever, you know, they decide. So, if we could maybe get that started a little sooner than normal and get the results, because otherwise, it causes double work for my staff to have to, the departments turn in what they want for raises, then we have to go in and redo to put in what the salary committee decides. So, anyway, it was brought to my attention that maybe if we could get that started early, it would be very helpful.

Todd said I agree, having been on that twice, it would be better if we had that done like in April or something.

Laura said before budgets, yes.

David said yes. And I've been on that committee also Meeks, what are the rules on that now?

Meeks said one commissioner and two council members.

David said one commissioner and two council?

Meeks said yep. It's not three council anymore.

David said I guess this meeting, any volunteers to be on that committee? We need two. Todd, would you like to serve again since you've been on it?

Todd said I want to give other people an opportunity first since I've done it two years in a row. I will do it again if I'm wanted. Bev was on it last year too, and the year before.

David said anybody else like to volunteer?

Todd said it's good, if you've not been on it before, you learn a lot about the budget because you get acquainted with what each departments employees are. It's kind of a good warmup for the budget, so, if Scott or Greg, want you guy to think about it, or Larry, sorry.

Larry said I've been on salary committees with other businesses and yeah, I can do it.

David said okay. I would like to see one carry forward.

Larry said from last time?

David said yeah, if it's possible.

Todd said I'll do it.

David said okay. So, we've got our two. It'll be Todd and Larry.

Laura said and then I will ask the commissioners then on, it wasn't brought up to me until after their meeting yesterday, but I'll ask them on the 17th for the same thing to appoint someone.

David Lenkensdofer – Solid Waste Meeting change, Ag Days date change, Financial information update

David said so, you'll take care of that. Okay. I do have a few things here myself. Solid Waste, yesterday we determined that we're not going to meet monthly anymore, we'll meet every two months. I think it's good to do that. We signed a resolution to sign checks in between time. And we had a list of companies or people that we had on our current roster that we could pay out for, so that doesn't change. Ag days have been moved to September, I believe because of construction. So, just to let everybody know. Legals, I've been going through the papers and I'll go through Gateway, Indiana State. It's a website and I've put, every couple years I put together a complete packet of about 5 pages of information for you guys and it includes Wind Solar projects, our total assets, we're dealing with about close to have a billion dollars in total assets with the roads, bridges, drainage, buildings. I'll put that together again. And I do go through all the townships on the Gateway because there's quite a bit of money out in the townships currently. When I put this together last time it was over 2 million dollars in the 11 townships we have. Some are excessive, some are right on key, and some just barely make it. So, I'll make sure, I'll show all those in a listing and then we can look at that in case going forward, one of those townships needs money or doesn't need money. Two things that's going to hit the council this year is the State budget, property taxes, more than likely, there will be a reduction coming out of the State this year. So, that'll affect our budget. And we'll just have to be very cautious therein. In the last half of their session currently, we should know more by the end of this month, where they're headed. Have no idea at this time. I sit on the State County Council Legislative Committee and will know more as we go forward. Also, the same note, Federal monies may be hitting the State and the counties this year also. So, when we come to budget, we're going to have to be very cautious on what we do and how we do it. For the new ones, there should have been a handbook presented today for the county and for everybody, I guess. Well, that's the County Council handbook, just the regular for the county. And you should have a County Council handbook. We spent several years getting that put together. It's a wealth of knowledge for County Councils. When I first started, we only had about 6 pages. So, you can see how the book has developed in. It pretty much spells out what you can and can't do as a County Council person. Sent out a copy of the financial plan. That's from Baker Tilly. Review that, that's a very

Greg said he is very informational. He's the same person that does the redevelopment isn't he? Laura?

Laura said yes.

Greg said yeah, he's a wealth of knowledge and very down to earth and easy to understand.

Mike said and if you have questions.

Greg said yeah, he'll answer them.

Laura said so it's up to you guys. I'm sure there is funding in the budget to pay for it.

Greg said let's see what the cost is.

Laura said so, I'll ask him for the cost.

David said okay. Anything else to come before the County Council meeting today?

Adjournment

David said entertain a motion to adjourn.

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

Reviewed and accepted this 8 day of April, 2025

David Lenkensdofer

David Lenkensdofer

Larry Preston

Beverly Fields

Greg Cheesman

Mike Stine

good document we've had put together. Tells us exactly where we're at. I think we do it about every 3 years and a lot of information on that. That's about all I have for this group today.

Todd said I'm sorry. I made a mistake I think. Last year the salary committee had three councilmen on it, right?

David said right.

Todd said has that changed to two?

Meeks said if you have more than two council people on it, then it's a public meeting.

Todd said so they can only have two then?

Meeks said I mean you can have three. You'd just have to advertise it, have it here and have it recorded.

Todd said I think we should just continue the way we'd done it, unless you guy think otherwise.

Meeks said that was a new law change.

David said it was July 1st last year.

Todd said the second thing is that Baker Tilly report. I was two years into my term before I heard the presentation, and I know the reports not done in the year, but can we have them come every year and like review?

Laura said you have to pay them to come.

Todd said I don't know how much that cost.

Laura said I don't know either. I can ask.

Todd said can we take a look at that please, because I think it would be really good for our new members, and even us, just to hear it again. He goes through all the forecast of money coming in and the projected expenditures, so you get a sense for where we're at with the budget. It would really be good to have it before the budget then after. I think it came after the budget, just because of when the report was done.

Laura said I mean, I can ask him to come. I just want you to be aware that you're going to pay him.

Todd said what do you guys think? It's probably going to be a 1,000, \$2,000.00.

Laura said I can ask Jason what the cost would be. But, if you want him to come regardless, I'm okay with that, but I just wanted you to be aware of that.

Todd Holaday

Todd Holaday

Scott Fisher

Scott Fisher

ATTESTED:

Laura J. Martin

Laura J. Martin, Auditor

