

Randolph County Council

August 3, 2021

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 Gary Friend, Rick Brown, Tom Kerns, Max Holaday, David Lenkensdofer, Missy Williams and Beverly Fields. Also present was County Auditor Laura J Martin.

Council President Gary Friend presided.

Pledge of Allegiance

Gabe Winkle – Public Defender fees

Gabe said I wrote both of our Judges a letter as the bar president regarding the public defender fees, requesting an increase in the hourly rate from \$70 per hour which is what we are currently at right now to \$90 per hour to be more in line with what our surrounding counties are. Our last increase was January 2016. There are several different factors as to why I'm asking for that increase now. Number one is our shrinking bar and pool of attorney's that are willing to take court appointed cases. I have only been practicing for about five years and I can tell you just in that time we are down several members that are willing to take these cases because the pay is so low proportionate to what our private rate is. For a lot of us court appointed attorney rates are less than half of what we charge on private cases. So, as our bar is shrinking our courts are leaning on who is left in our bar to take more cases and so we are having to devote more of our practices to court appointed rates. We are asking them to take more for less money than we would take on private cases. That is a major factor why we are asking for this increase, also rising poverty rates. A lot of people are qualifying for court appointed attorneys, a lot of drug cases where were just having more of those that come into our county so more and more people are qualifying for court appointed attorneys. Also, the pandemic has played a large roll, Gary I talked to you about this. We are able to cut some costs recently because of the Covid-19 pandemic, we are able to utilize some virtual ways of getting things done. I would personally like to thank the Council for are new telecommunications system in the courthouse and the jail. It has been a great way for us to cut some travel time, traveling back and forth to court, going to the jail. I believe even if the County Council would vote to increase our hourly rate, we're still able to cut some of those cost by utilizing some of these new techniques that we've been using this past year. Those are the three main points that I would say why this increase would be due at this time. Any questions that you would have I would be happy to answer those.

Gary said I know that you have been in contact with Judge Arnett and he is endorsing this too?

Gabe said Judge Toney and Judge Arnett are both on board with this.

Gary said I don't think you can get a plumber for \$70.00 an hour right now, let alone legal representation. I personally think it is something that needs to be done and I appreciate you telling the Council how we are saving money for some of the expenditures that we put out.

Missy said is there any other way to get more attorneys to step up?

Gabe said pay would be a big one. We do have some out of county attorneys who do come in and do some work here but with the surrounding counties Jay, Delaware, Wayne they are all at \$90.00 per hour so if your office is in Muncie, this doesn't pay for you to drive all the way over here for less money when you can take those same cases for more money over there. That would be a big draw for people, if we were at least in line with those other counties.

Rick ask is this something we are looking at with the budget in mind?

Gary said we will have to make sure it's in the 2022 budget. When is the Judge wanting to put this in place?

Gabe said I don't know exactly, he's going to present a little bit on his budget. I'm hoping he will maybe be able to come here in a little bit.

Gary asked did he tell you what the percentage was, did you do the math, I know it's not a dollar for dollar increase since were doing some savings.

Gabe said I don't have that information.

Max said I agree I think we need to step up, we have an obligation to provide good representation to these people.

Gabe said our bar feels passionately about providing real legal services to our clients even though they don't have the money to pay us.

Dave said I agree you can't get an electrician or plumber or anybody for \$70.00 an hour, so it's time.

Tom asked are we paying any kind of mileage or anything for attorneys coming in from out of county?

Gabe said I practice in the county so, I don't really charge. My office is in Union City, I suppose I could charge mileage, I really don't normally do that to the courts. I don't know if out of town attorneys do charge mileage.

Tom said it is available potentially?

Gabe said yes.

Gary said starting when, now or January 2022? What are your thoughts?

Gabe said I don't have a thought in mind, what ever the Council would like to do on that. Now would be great but I don't want to put you guys in a bind on your budget.

Gary said I would like to say now but I think properly we should just say were going to make this change in 2022, January 1.

Tom said I think at a minimum we need to wait until next month and get through the budget hearing and then we could address it and talk about this next month.

Dave said I think it should be January 1.

Rick said that is why I asked the question I did and I think we should probably at least get through the budget process to see where we stand.

Bev said I agree.

Missy made a motion to increase the pauper attorney fees to \$90.00 an hour beginning January 1, 2022. Max seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Art Moystner – Longevity pay committee

Art said what I'd like to ask the Council today is last time I was in front of you, you said something about the Commissioners with regard to the longevity pay matrix. Mr. Wickersham suggested we have a committee to sit down and discuss that, I know he is going to serve on that committee as well as myself, Shaneyfelt, I believe Judge Arnett is going to be on that committee and I am here to ask for two of the Council to sit on that committee, is what Mr. Wickersham had recommended.

Gary said are there two volunteers that want to sit on the longevity committee? Beverly is one, do we have a second? I would say yes but you would have to wait until around 4:00 pm to have the meetings.

Art said I am good with evenings. Whatever works.

Gary asked how many meetings are you expecting to have?

Art said I don't have any idea.

Gary said where are you expecting to have them?

Art said once I figure out who to email I will send out an email with some potential dates so that everybody can kind of pick to set that up. I guess the question is for me is will this be my committee, would it be the Commissioner's committee or is it the Council's committee?

Gary said if the Commissioner's are on board they are the upper authority.

Art said then I would need to get with Commissioner Wickersham and if we could do something in the evening then I'm good with that.

Tom said I would actually like to come to the meetings, because of my schedule traveling so much I would be the one hate to be the one on the committee and not being there. We can have three there at times so, I would like to know when the meetings are so if I'm available I could sit in.

Dave said that would be a good idea.

Gary said do you want to be an alternate?

Dave said let Tom go first, followed up by Dave and then I will follow up.

Art said what I will do is once I figure out who we have then I will send out an email to ask for availability and then go from there.

Gary said Beverly is definitely and then Tom followed up by Dave and I can be an alternate too. I don't know about anybody else but it has to be 4:00 pm or on. This all has to happen in the next two weeks.

We will get two people from the Council there because one of the big things is as good as it is to have a plan, we have to be able to fund it.

Tom asked are you going to try and do this before our budget hearings in three weeks?

Art said I think that would be an insurmountable task to have it by budgets. I am going to discuss it at budgets.

Tom said it would be nice to have one meeting before then.

Art said I will see the availability of everyone to see what we can get worked out. As I stated I think this is very important, I think it is something that we have to figure out because we are losing good people. I have already lost two, I don't want to lose anymore.

Gary said the Delaware County Sheriff said the same thing a couple weeks ago.

Art said he did, he was quite public with what he said, I know they're going to try and come up with a system and that is one of the things that concerns me also is if they come up with a system, if I had five years or less on after you gave me the training, I could make \$10 or \$15,000.00 more, I'd be gone.

Gary said we have budgetary restraints, I also believe that we have to look at the entire county for longevity. We have an entire county of people that we have to look at.

Art said I don't disagree. Judge Arnett will be there to represent the Court house. I will also point out that the issue isn't in the other office, right now the issue is in emergency services. EMS is down, the Sheriff's office is down, Jail is down.

Gary said to me this longevity situation is a pathway to more money, it's a more money situation. If we were paying more money, longevity wouldn't even be discussed right now. It is just a bridge to get to more money, which is a valid argument.

Art said I think in the committee meeting we need to have that discussion because as I stated, I've got a guy that's in training sitting in the basement right now, we put \$2,000.00 in him thus far and he hasn't worked day one on the road.

Gary said emergency services problem in Randolph County Art is we struggle to pay fair enough and if we're looking to use longevity as a way to pay enough money, that's not the issue, the issue is they don't make enough money.

Art said I would like to see a Hybrid where we get pay raises but I would also like to be able to retain them because I think that is a growing trend in emergency services.

Max said at the same time Gary, I don't think it's right to have a person the first day on the job earning the same pay as someone that's been there and are fully trained.

Gary said sometimes governmental services, were looking at starting at full pay and then moving them to more money, in other industry they're not getting the same pay because they've got to train first. We don't bring people in at a lower rate, at Community Corrections we do, that's the only one and then we ramp them up to trained pay. Also, if were wanting to stay where were at and then go from there forward, which means we have to lower starting pay until you get trained and that would ramp up to make people satisfied but it is not very powerful to everybody.

Art said for the sake of argument, I would say we are already at the low end for starting pay.

Gary said I'm not saying our benchmark is where it needs to be but there is a base line in Randolph County. When this is all said and done, our budget is going to determine what we really can and cannot do.

Art said I don't disagree, but I think that is something we can discuss in the committee also.

Dave said in the last five to seven years we've lost over 2000 residents out of this county, which in turn affects the LIT taxes, property taxes and unlike Gary, were constrained with how much money we have to work with.

Art said I don't disagree, but I also think that we choose to be constrained with some of that income. I would also tell you as I stated before I think it was in front of the Commissioner's and I don't know if I told you this under Sheriff Hendrickson we turned over an entire department. I don't want to do it again. You're not going to have the experience. I think that's a huge disservice. The other thing is I will send an email out to the four of you along with everyone else to figure out how that works. The other thing I wanted to bring you up to speed on is the body camera's that I been working on that I think we need. I found out this week that the money that was allocated by the state that the state police were going to control they are now passing over to homeland. I finally found a contact within the state police, were not going to have information on how to submit until the end of August possibly the middle of September. Everything we've found, I found another one it was a federal grant but everything I've found will pay for equipment, the physical equipment only which is only about a third of that and caps us at about \$36,000.00 possible to get depending on what they give us. You are talking \$36,000.00 for the body cameras, I think that's about \$130,000.00 project stand alone over five years. The storage is a component of that, I have had conversations with our state representative, state senator, I've actually talked to Congressman Pence regarding the funding that's come from either the federal government or the state and the restrictions that they've place on smaller entities with regards to the storage and not being able to pay for that and explained to them that your asking us to get these and you want these in law enforcement but your only willing to give us a third of the cost and we can't afford to do it that way. I know all three of them were going take that back to their respective committees to have that discussion to try to see what they can do to help in the future but that doesn't help us know. I also shared with the Commissioner's yesterday that I'm getting ready to pull and I will send the email out today, I'm pulling all the body cameras off the street because it's a failing technology for us. The systems about five years old now and I don't want the Prosecutor's office or the officer to sit in front of the Judge and explain why we have video on this one and why we don't on that one because the technology's failed.

Gary said so we won't have no video at all?

Art said no, I'm pulling them off the street because we are down to less than half of what we originally had for body camera's and they work intermittently, so maybe they get video on this when they activate it maybe they don't, maybe they get the whole thing, maybe they get part of it, maybe they get cut into two-minute intervals.

Gary said how did we get to this point, where we get completely unprotected liability wise?

Art said how did we get here?

Gary said yes, how did we get to the point where now we have no protection in liability for body cameras. We are almost doomed without it.

Art said I don't disagree with you, that's one of the things that I've been trying to work on, to get it and as I stated when I first presented it. I think a way we can do it is if we try to budget it in to where it's a reoccurring cost so it's budgeted instead of trying to come up with \$170,000.00 all in one shot.

Gary said we haven't denied funding for body camera protection that I am aware of. We've always funded those things when you've brought them to us.

Art said we have found funding for those things, one of the issues that we have is I've been looking at camera's for six months and we were testing the Axon, we've got those, that's the system I think we need to go with it's much better than the current system we have which is digital allied plus we have the component of less lethal that we can add into the Axon. The issue we have is none of that technology, it's old enough that they won't replace it it's not under warranty so as those fail it's \$2500.00 here, \$1500.00 there to fix that and that is not something we have in the budget and instead of buying new cameras for one, two, three officers that in six months were going to trade out for a different camera system, we haven't purchased those.

Gary said I would like to know what it would cost to get Randolph County safe again with footage. I don't like this at all, just so you know. In my opinion, I don't like the fact that we're going to go with dark out in Randolph County when it comes to law enforcement. You got good people and good word but that's not going to do anything for us when were challenged.

Art said correct, the package that was brought forward is a little over \$170,000.00. I think the first year was \$35 or \$36,000.00. Then \$34,000.00 every year after that. One of the things when we first presented this that was brought was that we wanted to see what was going to happen with this grant because if there was funding available because we don't know if any of it is retroactive. So, we had put this on hold pending that which was suppose to be available July 1st. The state hasn't made that money available. They haven't even created a system to apply for it yet.

Gary said does this bother our insurance carrier, does it bother our county attorney, I know Meeks is not here and Tom may not be up on it. Does it bother the Commissioners?

Art said at this point in time there is no legal requirement to have a body camera but I can tell you from my perspective their invaluable. I believe if our Prosecutor is still setting here, I believe as far as walking into the court room with video, they absolutely love to be able to do that.

Gary said we have resources. If \$170,000.00 is going to put us in legal jeopardy, we have other ways to get this, we just need to know what we need to have. Personally, my opinion, I do not like that deal where we are just going to dark out. It's your call as the Sheriff, I'm not challenging that.

Art said I think were in a situation that it creates a situation for the officers if you've activated the body camera and the body camera catches two minutes of it. The appearance of it, the argument is there that the officer shut the camera off because it stopped working. We have several of them that are doing that. I watched one the other day, the officer was out for 30 minutes, it was cut into two-minute segments. It was on and off, on and off and your missing things.

Gary said that could be proven, that could be proven by an IT specialist, that's what happened and it wasn't an automatic turn off.

Art said part of the issue you have is to pay for that IT specialist to come in to testify.

Gary said what I am saying is that me personally, I would rather dig into resources in other accounts to get this county protected.

Art said I can forward that information to you today.

Tom said I would approve money today, we will find it. Even if it's out of windfarm and Commissioner's can look at it in two weeks. This new system, do they download it automatically when the officer comes in.

Art said they put them in a docking station, there is a docking station that we would have one at the jail that they would put that in and I think they download even if you have a couple of full shifts on it, you would download in about 15 minutes. The other thing they would have is an interface in the car that they can plug in through a USB that they would be able to hook to their tablet and that would do the downloads much slower but it would download that way. They would have that video and then you could review it. Some of the technology with this is amazing because the Prosecutor's office will have a link that they can get in and look at that when there's a motion of discovery that they have to send it to the defense attorney, they just share a link to that specific video and it stops us from having to pay for media sources to reproduce that and send it some place. I think there's several things with this that are very good.

Dave asked what funding sources are at the state level that you were working with?

Art said I don't know what the source was called but they approved \$30 million for the use of body camera's and it came from a federal source to the state, the state earmarked \$20 million of it for the state police because their program is already in existence they already have their body cameras and we are still waiting on direction from the state on how to get that and the state is passing it off to the state homeland. I have a contact at the state police but I don't remember exactly what that program was called for that money.

Dave said they haven't given you any indication of when that might be?

Art said no, the only thing we are hearing is that it will be for the physical equipment itself and with 18 body cameras at \$2,000.00 a camera your looking at \$36,000.00 but the state also says they will only I believe for our size county, they will go up to 75% of that.

Dave said I will be meeting with JD and Jeff here next week.

Art said they don't have information on it. They did find the source for me, Senator Raatz found the source and had one of the state police officers contact me and I was put on an email thread for him and he would let me know who at homeland I would be in contact with once that determined.

Max said I think personally even if we were to loan the Sheriff's department monies so he could proceed now and then whatever the state comes up with to fund it, we could repay it. I think we need to move as fast as we can. I appreciate your efforts in trying to move it but I know how slow these things sometimes move.

Rick said I agree, I think we need to do something quick to get those body cams. Also, I think we need to look at maybe making this a budget item that you can replace as you need.

Art said on that point with the five-year plan, it renews where you have the option to renew at the five years, so it's a budgetary item that you kind of absorb and then you get used to it, it's not like the vest we have to buy every five years and we come to you with a large tab.

Bev said it's too costly not to do something.

Missy said it also protects your officers to have that in case an accusation is made that's not correct. If you take them off, those people deserve to be protected.

Gary asked Mr. Daly would you like to weigh in on this?

David Daly said it helps the prosecution tremendously. The saying a picture is worth 1000 words, when you've got it on video its hard to argue with.

Gary said I think we need to move as quickly as we can when were back in session, we can advertise for action on this when were back in session on the 10th for budget workshops so we can get some money allocated for this.

Mike Haffner – Highway secretary position, Ordinance 2021-10

Mike said we are basically in conflict with what the Commissioner's had changed the job description to allow the office administrator to be the same as all the other employees at the Highway working the same hours. This is not a short-term situation, this is long term. With the work load from the state and federal aid projects has added a lot of work load. The foreman and I are probably spending 10 to 15 hours a week just helping out with paperwork and we been doing that for over a year. We're high dollar people to just do some of that stuff and I'm really thinking we need to add on another part time or full-time person and I can't give that recommendation until we get our current staff up to 40 hours a week to see what we need in the future. Commissioner Girton is in the audience if you want to bring him up to explain it.

Gary said I do. Gary do you mind answering, do the Commissioner's want us to revisit this ordinance for the salary increase for the Highway secretary.

Gary Girton said yes.

Gary said this is an exact of what we visited last month.

Mike said yes.

Tom said I have no problem with the 40 hours the biggest issue I have with is an office person having a paid lunch when the rest of the county does not. If we end up with part time in there maybe we can go some direction with that too. We have other offices in the county, nobody else gets a paid lunch, I know it's a working lunch but it's still a paid lunch. That is my biggest issue with it.

Dave said like Tom, I'm not in favor of the working lunch but also what I haven't seen from the highway in a lot of years is a 5-year road and a 5-year bridge plan. I know we have a report from SJCA about the bridges, you can develop a 5-year plan from that. On the roads we had a passer study done didn't we a few years ago, I've never seen anything back from that.

Mike said it's been updated because you have to have it updated.

Dave said what I'd like to see from whoever on a quarterly basis an update on bridges, roads and even like the burning operation, where were at, what kind of roads, I have no clue what's going on with the County Highway. We should know since were the financial side of that. I'm good at compromising, those would be some of the compromising issues I would have going forward for a full-time secretary.

Rick said I voted for it but I still have as I think back about it, we have offices in the county where we had to cut people a few years ago. Deputy positions, secretarial position, so on so forth and most of those folks were working 35 hours a week. We cut those folks staff completely and some of them have never recovered and never got those positions back. I voted for it because I think somebody is needed in that office to cover when the guys are out on the roads. It's maybe even a safety issue. That's where I'm at.

Bev said I have a problem with all of the above, that is that it is similar to a chief deputy, maybe a chief deputy would be an office manager in the highway and that person needs to have a regular lunch like everybody else and not a paid lunch. I don't think the pay for that person should exceed what a chief deputy within the courthouse make. It should be in that ball park as well. Which is about \$37,000.00 on the average for chief deputies or office managers whatever you want to call them.

Missy said I am not in favor of it. You are the head of the Highway Department and I think there are a lot of administrative skills that are needed to do some of those things. I looked over the salary scale and I've looked at how many people who have years of experience here who are working 35 hours who she is going to jump over by getting a \$4500.00 raise basically. I don't agree with the working lunch and again we just heard that people that hire in as a first-year person shouldn't be compensated the same as people who have been here three, four, ten, twenty years and that is what we're doing. So, I'm not in favor of it, unfortunately when you're in charge of something you've got to do a lot of it. I know there are a lot of grants and all the things you have to do. I can't look these people in the eye who've been here, I don't want to name names but you know our Chief Deputy Auditor, this person's first year going to come in and it's a tougher job than Angela in the Auditor's office. I shouldn't have named her, there are a lot of positions in here who deserve.

Mike said my only comment is that this is MVH funds. This is also a position compared to other counties that is extremely under paid. That is the way I'm looking at it.

Gary said I looked at it too and it is the Commissioner's call when it comes to the people who work out there throughout the county on those things. We do know it's the only employee at the Highway Department that's treated that way. I don't know if the Sheriff's Department does that or an EMT, if their getting paid for lunch or not. I voted yes and I still would today because I believe the Commissioner's have brought forth the request and it's a valid request for the reason of you are treating one person differently and I don't care for that out there. As far as being in a debate on whether you should be you should be there four days a week or whether you should be doing working lunches is a different debate that was already had sometime ago and it's settled on. However, it takes four people to be in favor so with the discussion now does anybody want to make the motion as the Commissioner's have ask us to revisit Ordinance 2021-10 which is bringing the Highway Office Administrator to 40 hours with a paid lunch. I will give it a minute or two to see if anybody wants to make a motion or if it will die without a motion.

Laura said the Commissioner's approved the job description to make it a 40 hour yesterday.

WHEREAS: There have been changes in the 2021 Salary Ordinance with regard to the Randolph County's Highway Administration Budget. It is necessary to amend the 2021 Salary Ordinance and to change the following salary in the Salary Ordinance effective August 13, 2021 pay date as follows:

HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

\$1440.80 PER PAY

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

SECTION 1. Ordinance No. 2020-15, 2021 Salary Ordinance pertaining to Randolph County's HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION BUDGET shall be amended to read as follows:

HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

\$1440.80 PER PAY

Gary said the Commissioner's approved the job description to make it 40 hours yesterday, so it is going to be unfunded is what is going to happen. Does anyone want to make a motion? Mike it doesn't look like there is going to be a motion to approve this. It will stop right here without a motion.

George Caster - Economic Obsolescence and the assessment of solar farms

Gary said I have asked George to come and explain how assessed values work and economic obsolescence is a thing that is coming at us. Wind, Solar farm assessments and how that comes to be versus how I understand the statute. How I understand the statute and George disagree, this is not about a disagreement it is about how we do things. George will you bring the Council up to date and another thing is what's the future look like because we don't seem to be getting a lot of ground in assessed valuation. I know we are responsible for some of that because of the windfarms but there are county's that have no windfarms in economic development but their general assessed valuation doesn't seem to be following ours.

George said Mr. Friend sent me the questions he had and I pondered over them to make sure I had all my ducks in a row. I am going to start with the economic obsolescence issue. Economic obsolescence is like functional obsolescence is a tool that we can use to adjust values on structures based off of the income. It is primarily commercial and industrial entity that receives these types of things. If it's personal property they can request for an economic obsolescence stating the reason the cost that was external that they didn't see coming caused that product not to be able to function correctly and the cost was higher than they wanted it so they wanted economic obsolescence. We have a lot of discussions with that and we come to a compromise on that. Functional obsolescence is just like it is, its function. That's again structural but it tends to just be a way of depreciating because we have to get to the values that appraisers bring up or whatever the cost the state uses are not going allow us to do that unless we change grading. Grade or condition is not going to change overnight, it takes a long time. So, that's a tool that's used for that. Economic obsolescence is loss in value do to the effects of influences outside of the property boundaries. Covid could be considered that type of influence. Economic obsolescence is declared and computed by converting the negative outside influence into values. So, how much did that cost you

\$1000.00, \$10,000.00 that's what we have to come up with. One example being properties that have been negatively impacted by the Covid for instance more people worked from home so demand for office space is down. Equivalently supply has increased and rents have fallen roughly 30% compared to precovid levels. The value of commercial office space is directly related to the income so the value of office properties has dropped do to the outside influence of Covid. If I had nobody renting it I've lost that income. Therefore, I want somebody in there, I'm going to drop the rates to get somebody in there. The negative influence would be to make up for what you usually got. Another would be the affect of the increase in interest rates. Value for commercial property is determined by capitalizing income into value as interest rates increase cap rates increase, value equals income divided by the cap rate. Those cap rates increase, value declines. If interest rates increase substantially mortgage rates will follow, monthly payments will increase. Many buyers will be priced out of the market and then residential supply will increase and property values will decline because they will flood the market and it's going to be a buyers' market not a sellers' market. So, what impact does that have on the county? No one here has that magic crystal ball that can say what's going to happen tomorrow. Like the stock market, nobody knows what the stock market is going to do. Agricultural properties make up a large portion of our county tax base. The values of ag is determined by the department of local government finance. It's not a market value, we got people paying \$15,000.00 an acre down to \$225.00 an acre it's just a wide range of things. The rate is set by using a six-year average of the capitalization on net operating income for cash rent. You notice I didn't include what they're getting at the grain mill for that. So, then they take of the highest one and they go up in average. That's how they come up with the rate for the land. As long as operating income increases and interest rates our stable values should continue to increase so each year they should start increasing the ag rates. As interest rates increase and if commodity prices decline or other operating income declines then subsequently agricultural as a reflective value, residential values will probably begin to decline because the cap is eventually, the cost is going to be so high. The more cost to you to farm the less you make, so as long as the cost stay down the rate will. Commercial and industrial values will probably follow the inflation may well be a contributing factor. If inflation starts increasing, everything is going to. Your going to see the markets take a tank, just like they did back in 06. People were building house that aren't even worth the yard that they're sitting on because of the inflation they are not going to be able to afford them. People are going to start losing them, like they did before, \$300,000.00 homes, \$400,000.00 homes are going to go down to \$150,000.00, \$200,000.00 whatever anybody can get for it. So, that's your impact to your AV. One of the questions to me was how does gross AV and net AV work. What we been talking about here was how we got to the gross AV. How many jelly beans are in the jar? That is everything, that's your personal property mobile homes, that's your personal property, that's your ag land, that's residential land. The value of this county. That's how you get the gross AV. I didn't pass that off and then the net AV is determined by the Auditors office. Because they have all the deductions and all these deductions takes away from the gross AV. Homestead, not for profits takes away, abatements takes away, over 65 takes away. The less value of exempt properties, you go churches, schools and more that don't pay anything. Cities buying up properties because one they need to, to get them back on the market but during that time period there are not tax on them. So, you are reducing that value. I know people have told me using that analogy by the time they are done, getting ready to send their tax bill, half the jelly beans are gone. How does that work? I went through the books. The debt service, plus the operating expenses, plus the local government agency out going expenses, minus the sources other than property taxes. I know we have some of those, equals the budgeted revenue to be raised by property tax. Then we have the budgeted revenue divided by the total assessed value of all property. What it doesn't say is the total net assessed value of the properties, not the gross. That gives you your rate and then the rate multiplied by the AV then sends the tax bill out. Right now, I perceive, I did a 5-year study on residential properties in this county. Five years ago, we were selling at an average rate of around \$92,000.00 a property, now were selling about \$96,000.00. But, were selling more at \$96,000.00 then we were at \$92,000.00. So, there is an increase in that. If I follow that same trend right now it's going upward, you got about three maybe four years before everything starts going down just because of what external things are happening that is going to cause all of this to go south. If they do

away with the personal property all together, some people will think it isn't much but somebody has to make it up somewhere.

Gary said do you have any idea of what that is, personal property the total?

George said right now, they went from 20 to 40, they went in to ask for 60 and came out with 80.

Gary said and they are going to take it in two years according to our State Senator and State Rep. Taking funds and not giving us a way to recuperate. But, how much, do you know what that accounts for, for Randolph County?

George said 1%.

Gary said 1% of our AV?

George said yes. It's not really that much because it's self-reported. If you don't report it.

Gary said it's self-reported, all of it?

George said personal property is yes. So, if you don't report it, we don't know what it is. I send letters out to people all the time. They tell me they don't have \$30,000.00 worth of stuff. I say how much did that combine cost you? How much did the head on that combine cost you? A lot more than what your telling me you don't have. But it's just what it is. So, now you've got everything falling in either residential or ag. Ag is set by the state, the only adjustment we get is what the soil type is and what they are using it for. If it starts going up, it's a good thing. If it starts going down again.

Gary said can it go further than it is now?

George said yes. It's been down \$440.00, it would have if they had not stopped it a few years back, it would have raised to about the \$5,000.00 level. But, they started to get their finger's in and said stop and now they've changed the methodology and now we have \$1290.00. I don't know if it will be \$1300 next year or \$1250.00. We didn't get any help from railroad and similar utilities they go to state. I don't get that information, they go right to the Auditor, I mean I get it but it's just numbers and I don't know what it's for but it is also self-reported and nobody checks it. What you see as the upcoming trend, like I said I am looking at max your going to get five-years, probably more realistic three before that trend starts wavering.

Gary asked three years of slight increase?

George said were talking 1% to 2% per year. At one time east central Indiana, which were part of had an average growth of 7% yearly then 2006 hit we weren't making that. I got homes selling right now three times what we got them assessed for, we can't get any higher. Why are they paying that much? I don't know. We also have what I call influences of immigration, you got other counties that assess higher, they can come here, get the same property cheaper and then go back and work there and they're still making money. It happens in Delaware County all the time. Southern part of the county gets Wayne County influence, it does happen. I think if you look at the corridor of sales it's right along 32. There is stuff in Union City that sold, I don't even know how they got there. Houses selling for \$90,000.00 that maybe should be a rental at \$30,000.00. Then two years later it's sitting on the tax sell market. That doesn't help the market. I talked with Tarter's about this, they are the biggest real estate people we have, they can't keep inventory right now. That's a good thing for them. They also perceive a not so far future where that inventory is going to start building up. The inflation rate is really what is going to drive that train. If the

inflation rate stays low, you can see in this county a steadier increase for a longer period, if it starts going up, things are going to go back down. Then you ask me about solar panels.

Gary said the assessed value inside the fence. George and I have had a bit of a disagreement on how that's valued but then I talked to Chris Beasley and he said you and he talked to DLGF.

George said it wasn't that he and I talked to them, I got called and I just sort of got stuck in the middle.

Gary said before we go onto this because that's imminent in front of us right now, on the other, the economic obsolescence is that the call of the assessor's office. What if you say no, I don't agree with you, I don't like your supporting paper work. Do you make the final call, whether they get the lower taxes or do they have to petition the PTABOA board?

George said this is how it works. I come up with the AV, assessed value and they can come see my documents anytime they want. That is what the PTABOA process is for.

Gary said let's just say the county doesn't like a property, can the county appeal to raise the taxes, not that we would but I'm just saying is it a one-way street of lowering taxes or is there any protection saying wait a minute, we can't operate on zero obviously.

George said right, I make them prove their word. They can't come in and say my taxes are too high. I don't care what the taxes are. You're not here for your taxes, you're here for your assessment. The outcome of that is yes, it may affect your taxes, but I'm not talking about your tax bill, period, it is what it is. Our discussion was I will not place a value on a property that I cannot defend in front of the judge. Because if they appeal it, which they do, and we don't agree, it goes to PTABOA and if the PTABOA decides I'm right and they don't like it, they go to the state, they bring a judge in, I present my case, they present their case, it goes back, six months later hopefully you get an answer, they come back and say we side with this. You can even take it one step further to the state tax court and that's when you would have to have lawyers and stuff involved because I don't portray one and therefore I will not be one in front of them. All my values will be dressed right, I's dotted, t's crossed. During this conversation with DLGF, I was asked to explain how I came up with my numbers because I decided they should not be what they were.

Gary said on the solar?

George said yes, solar panels and we had this conversation and we had some, I don't think that's what it means and how this was going on. So, I got a call from DLGF and we had a conference call with EDPR, with Chris Beasley and their attorney and I had DLGF and the DLGF Councilor. We had this conversation and I was on the stand. I presented my complete case, DLGF said he did nothing wrong, he did exactly what the intent of the law was.

Gary said you did. I read it.

George said they don't like it because it raises the value.

Gary said what this means is the solar farm developers believe that the land between the panels, not that which is under should be assessed at ag value, 1200.00 an acre. The statute that I read says anything inside the fence is considered a utility property, zone 2 and I forget what the value was, like \$12,000.00 roughly.

George said the new law, most of this stuff was done before the law became affective in July and that new law, new IC code stipulated that DLGF had set standards of the cap by region. There's a north region, central region and southern region. The north region is \$11,500.00, the central region is \$13,300.00 and the south is \$5,000.00. Just below the five and he said he thought it was commercial industrial rates and it come up in the value, but it's the cap, it's not like ag where that's the value period. This is you cannot have value higher than that.

Gary said I understand that.

George said okay, I just want to make sure that's clear, were not exceeding that. The law also says, the solar panels and the land immediately surrounding them. Well, that's a very grey area. If you have long arms you can go over here. So, I have to figure out what to do on it.

Gary said didn't a section George say for clarification on that grey area that they interpret anything inside the fence is all the same?

George said the consider it commercial property.

Gary said anything in the fence.

George said inside the fence.

Gary said so, that is where the panels are all at and that's where the land between the panels are at.

George said here is what is going to happen, I've already determined. I am going to tell you right now how this is going to be assessed because we also found out during the conversation that the data that was provided to me initially for the initial pricing for this land was false. They openly admitted it and got caught with it.

Gary said EDPR?

George said yes. They are paying the individuals for the land inside the fence area \$800.00 an acre. Their paying outside the fence for the remaining part of the property a different value. What they were doing was taking both of added together and then dividing it by what's inside the fence. Then telling me it was six hundred and some dollars an acre.

Gary said down to \$6000.00.

George said well \$600 an acre then we have to divide it by the cap rate and the cap rate is 8.639, I think is what it is. So, after the new law, what's happening is, the access roads, the gravel road in and around them and all the land surrounding that panel, if I go to the front of that panel and measure to both sides, there is still a gap. I draw a square and include the gap, that's all the secondary commercial that the state sets the assessment for with the new rate that goes to \$9300.00 an acre. The rest of it will not be non-tillable, it will be undeveloped because they can expand that panel inside that fence. Once those expand then they change the rate. That is $\frac{1}{4}$ of the initial rate or \$2300.00 an acre. Here is an example for you, you own 20 acres inside the fence area. Ten acres is racked, racked means that is where the panels are, you got $\frac{1}{4}$ acre of service roads. Based on this formula that comes up to \$95,325.00 for that 10 $\frac{1}{4}$ acres. That means you got 9.75 acres not being used which would have previously like with the wind farms used as ag. It's not tillable, that's what they really wanted. I said no, based on the law, it's now called commercial but you're not using it for the panels but you can. I came up with it's undeveloped usual at \$2300.00 an acre, 9.75 times \$2300.00 gives you \$22,425.00. The math is pretty simple that 20 acres is

now worth \$117,250.00 if we done it the other way it probably would have reached maybe \$60,000.00. Now their tax bill net based on the tax rate or the cap.

Gary said are they at 2%?

George said ag is 2%, commercial is 3% cap. But if the tax rate for the township or the taxing unit they're in is less they pay the tax rate. My cap is \$13,000.00 with this particular parcel, I'm at \$11,600.00, I'm below their cap but I'm still all commercial. I can defend that anytime. That is how I am going to move forward. The caveat of this is the farmer or landowner pays all that but me being the nice guy that I am and I don't get paid for it, I send EDPR a list saying this is what you owe the tax payers. They pay the taxpayers back the difference between the commercial tax and the ag tax. Plus, they have to pay for the fence, the fence is not available, I can't add the fence because I don't know the fence's size. When this first came out the fences were all over the place, when I told them they had to pay for the fence they shrunk. I am waiting to see how much more they shrink.

Gary said how does it get to those different variations within the side of the fence when the, unless what I read older language now, it says everything inside the fence is valued and taxed at the same commercial rate.

George said the state says it's not.

Gary said the state says it's not but that's what it reads.

George said I know, they said that when they wrote these things it was so vague, its pathetic, it's like everything immediately surrounding, like I said that could be from fence to fence or it could mean.

Gary said I guess I wanted it to read that, because that's how I read it.

George said that is what I understand, so to make sure that I can cover both sides of the fence, I'm making the part that is actually used for the panel and the road to get to the panel is the main value. The other part that's not being used, they've got flowers growing in it or whatever, they can use that eventually, it's just unused commercial right now and has a rate that's $\frac{1}{4}$ but is still higher than ag rate.

Gary said thank you for all the work you done on that. George thank you for your time.

Mayor Bob McCoy asked is there anyway you can generate a report basically showing the deductions. For instance, the number of mortgage deductions within the county.

George said I can go to the Auditor and get that.

Bob asked would that be of value to you guys, my curiosity is, I don't know what the checks and balances are on the mortgage exemptions but I feel there are a lot of people getting mortgage exemptions that don't really qualify.

George said the way the law is written, as long as they maintain that they have to pay the bank money for this property.

Bob said it could be a home equity loan.

George said yes, as long as the bank considers it a mortgage.

Bob said do they have to report that every year?

George said yes, the banks record it in the recorders office and that is how its done. It's \$3,000.00, it's \$30.00 in tax dollars.

George said you all know where my office is, come in with questions anytime.

Angela Lowe – Health Insurance funding & Employment Separation, 4-H Part time line funding, Review of estimated property tax levy limits and the estimated reductions due to circuit breakers for each taxing unit

Angela said we might as well start off with health insurance.

Gary said county General. How much do we need to appropriate?

Angela said \$300,000.00.

Gary said that brings this year's total to how much appropriation?

Angela said \$2 million. Which is in next year's budget.

Gary said \$2 million, we have to put the actual in the budget.

Angela said health insurance is 20% of our general budget.

Gary said we need to make a motion to transfer \$300,000.00 from count general to insurance.

Max made a motion to do an additional appropriation of \$300,000.00 from county general to health insurance. Missy seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Angela said employee separation, there is a line in the Commissioner's budget it's \$25,000.00. anytime someone leaves we pay their comp time out and we've gone through that \$25,000.00 and I have actually \$6,000.00 waiting and so I need an additional \$20,000.00.

Gary asked from county general?

Angela said yes. That's where it is paid from, it doesn't matter what department you're from, county general pays out separation.

Gary said does it even pay highway department?

Angela said they have some separation.

Gary said that's what I thought. We only do from general those people whose payment comes out of general.

Angela said not all we do have some others.

Gary said like?

Angela said Community Corrections.

Gary said we don't have a line set up?

Angela said no.

Gary said do they have money?

Angela said yes.

Gary said they should pay it.

Angela said it's not in their state budget.

Gary said that's the grant side, their project income should be paying their own expenses. If they have the funding.

Angela said I don't think it's in there, I would have to look.

Gary said any department that has funds, that were paying out of general that they have other collective funds. That is where it needs to come from first. General is the last stop. Does anybody disagree with that?

Dave said that is the way I would look at it.

Angela said 911, when they leave we pay out of this.

Gary said we should be paying out of their funds set up for that. Until they can't take over and then we take over.

Chris said I believe I have a separation line. It's like \$6,000.00.

Angela said thank you Chris.

Gary said anybody else that has funding we need to make sure they are set up to pay their own funding. The general is the last stop because we are obligated to pay that expense as a county. So, you need a \$20,000.00 additional appropriation.

Tom made a motion to add an additional appropriation of \$20,000.00 from county general to the employee separation line in the Commissioner's budget. Missy seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Angela said you can scratch 4-H part time line, that had to do with the \$14.00 and that was taken care of. The review of the estimated property tax levy and the circuit breaker, it is an IC code that at the first meeting of the County Fiscal body in August, the County Fiscal Body shall review the levy limits that are provided by the Department of Local Government Finance and they also shall review the circuit breaker allocations and make a statement on it. What your statement is, did everyone get the levy and the circuit breaker. What this is saying is that you are aware of our levy this year of the limits you have in budgeting.

Gary said \$7,559,000.00?

Angela said that has some of your like CCD is not in general so I have to take that out when you're looking at general.

Gary said does this number of \$7 million include the CCD in Cum bridge?

Angela said it includes CCD. Also need to review the fact that the county will have an impact of \$646,930.00 in circuit breaker losses this year. That needs to be realized this year as well in our budget. Someone just needs to make a statement that you received the levies and you will budget within these.

Dave said the Council has received these levies and will budget within these guidelines. Tom seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Angela said I will see you August 10th.

Gary said what is the actual time for that?

Angela said I brought the schedule for the 23rd and the 24th. I believe it's 9:00 am, you have six departments. I will send that out.

Greg Beumer & Brian Hill, President of L&M Water District– L & M Water District Loan/grant \$296,500.00

Greg said we are here on behalf of the L&M Water District. When we met with the Commissioners not yesterday but at their previous meeting, they approved a request from the L& M Water District to provide \$296,500.00 from the counties American Rescue Plan Fund because its American Rescue Plan Fund money, we also need the approval of the Council. We are here today to answer any questions you might have. We sent you a letter that kind of outlined our request. In consideration of time unless you have questions, we are just here to get your approval.

Gary asked Mr. Hill do you have anything to add.

Brian said with L & M Water I'm also the President of the Losantville Town Board and we're doing everything we can to improve the Town of Losantville, we're in the process right now of annexing, installing a sewer system, enlarging the water system and looking to bring in business in Losantville. Make it more than just a home town, a little bit more tax revenue for not only us but for the county. It's been said and I told the Commissioner's last month, we started with the crossroads of the railroad tracks many years ago, now we got 35 and 36 there, very busy highways. That's what we got to work off of, we have the potential of being more than just a little town. With your help this would lower a lot of the cost of the installment to the people of both Losantville and Modoc.

Gary said this is a good use of the money, it is also a legal use of the money which is a restricted account of money.

Tom said this should be a grant though, correct?

Gary said it is a loan/grant style, possibly forgivable. When it comes to Randolph County it doesn't land in any town council treasuries.

Dave said the only question I have is it says loan/grant. ARPA money's, I think their grant moneys and that will have to be determined by legal counsel. So, there won't be any loan type position there.

Gary said it will likely be a forgivable grant.

Dave said it's probably going to be a grant.

Gary said our legal council will keep us straight.

Max said I'm definitely in favor of it. I do have a question. I talked to Scott Fisher some time ago about the sewer project and that your seeking additional grants for that project. Could you give me an update on how that's coming along?

Brian said we applied for the SWIFT program.

Greg said both utilities water and waste water have applied for the state water infrastructure program SWIFT. Unfortunately, that agency has delayed their announcement, it was going to be on October 6th as far as who was going to receive money and had to push that out about three weeks. So, we'll know whether those were funded. In particular the waste water which you ask about they've applied for USDA funding and that's a potential grant and loan combination.

Gary asked what kind of realm of money are we talking about in the future and how encompassing is it, is this going to be Losantville, full sewer system? Is Union School involved in any of this?

Brian said Union School is already hooked up to it, in fact the base facility is located behind the school. Modoc is also looking at it as well.

Gary said a regional development?

Brian said yes, between Modoc and Losantville. We're just going to be customers to add onto Modoc's facility and they're also looking at getting everything up to OSHA approval with their facility.

Gary said will that have a utility board of sorts to run it, if it's got municipalities as customers?

Greg said the current wastewater board is the town council members of the Town of Modoc. Right now, I think they are considering a regional sewer district and that would include Losantville, possibly the community of Blountsville, Indian Trail, the land fill. Once they go down that path, they have to become more of a regional sewer board. So, in the future, yes, I would say that's a possibility.

Gary said what kind of investment is that going to be in the future to get to that kind of level, which I think would help the county tremendously down there?

Greg said it could easily be in the \$8 to \$9 million mark.

Gary said that's local investment, or is that the total?

Greg said that would be to upgrade the sewer plant as well a well, the price tag to just put in a collection system in Losantville and run the line to Modoc is in the \$6 to \$7 million range.

Gary said so were looking at \$100,000,000.00 project with a \$2,000,000.00 local match.

Greg said not \$100,000,000.00. Well, your saying to connect all these.

Gary said the whole thing, yes.

Greg said we don't have those numbers.

Bev said it sounds like a great project.

Max made a motion to allow \$296,500.00 from the ARPA funds for the L & M Water District. Bev seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Adam Wilson – IT funding

Adam said I am going to hand you a big packet of information, I promise not to read all of it. This is basically supporting information for what I'm about to say. I went before the Commissioner's yesterday. I have been assessing our network for security and usability. What I found is we have some really big concerns, from a security standpoint and a little bit from a usability standpoint as well. Basically, in the packet the first thing you see is listing of all the computers that we have in our network. There's about 60 of them that have Window's 7 Professional on them and that means that those machines are no longer being pushed security updates and upgrades from Microsoft, for us to be able to be in a secure place for threats that happen to us. If you go right before that, this is a list of all of our switches and we have to read that with a magnifying glass, I apologize, I didn't make that very large. There are 18 switches that are over ten years old in our environment and each of those switches are Sisco switches and they are end of life as well. That means they are not receiving patch updates for them to be within what we need for security. Along with that we also are using a free software for email called Zimbra which is not exactly the most secure thing that we have and it doesn't provide us with the tools we need through Microsoft to do work here in the Courthouse and other areas as far Microsoft word and excel and those types of things that we need. What I brought before the Commissioner's and also informing you guys as well is that I would like to purchase 30 computers, we need to purchase 18 switches and we need to purchase Office 365 licenses for all the county employee's and the thing with a renewing purchase would be the Office 365 licenses which would be about \$12,000.00 per year. That would give us our email and it will give us our licensing for Windows 10 Enterprise and Office products like word and excel and all those types of things. In the back of the document, you will see some information from a joint commission from the Department of Homeland Security, the CIA and the FBI that talks about a recent attack we had called Prednightmare, that is an example of an attack that happened in the last month that we are unable to patch for because we do not have the most recent version of operating system. There's also a report that came out this month about foreign state actors, specifically the Chinese state that are targeting small governments such as this one and gives you that list of different techniques and tactics we should be using to combat the attacks that are happening and many of those things I'm unable to do because I do not have the proper equipment to do so.

Gary said if we had the equipment, do you know how to attack them back or set us up?

Adam said I don't want to attack them back, but definitely want to make us secure, I want to build a big wall so they can't get in. It is not just me obviously, I represent an entire company, FiveStar Tech has many years of specializing migration for Office 365, our security experts, our switch experts, I do a lot of that stuff as well, I understand a lot of that stuff but I have a team. So, there are big benefits of me being from that company.

Gary said all that said, how much money are we needing to set us up?

Adam said for the computer's and for the Office 365, it was \$46,000.00 and I have that quote in here. Then the switching environment, I'm working on the best possible pricing I can. I went and done a google search of just getting a guess, it was between \$60,000.00 and \$80,000.00 for the switches and those switches are the most important part.

Gary said how long does that last us when we upgrade, will we get some longevity out of it?

Adam said everywhere I've been, you usually try to get four to five years out of all the pc's that you put out, switches you try to get six to seven years out of.

Gary ask what are the switches?

Adam said a switch is you know your routing box at home that they give you from Comcast, it's a really big and more complex version of that. It basically allows you to create logical networks, so that things are separated from each other. Just because that computer is plugged into that switch and then my computer hears from that switch, if I don't want them to talk to each other, I can tell them not to. In fact, I can tell them to only talk to each other in a certain way if I want them to. So, that kind of stuff adds security to your network.

Gary asked, Angela what is the request from the Council right now and the next step.

Angela said yesterday the Commissioner's gave \$30,000.00 form their computer equipment line in CCD because I believe this is something he has to order, you can't go to Wal-Mart and pick these up, they have to be ordered. So, that's a start.

Laura said they basically told him to go ahead and we would figure out funding.

Gary said what are you needing right now, today.

Adam said all I need is that quote that you have right here, is the \$46,000.00. CDW is going to be sending us a bill on that for sure and then my plan is to send the Commissioner's the quote for the switches as soon as I get it in, hopefully later this week. Then I will need those funds.

Laura said I will forward that to Council too.

Dave said that could be \$60 to \$80 thousand, right?

Adam said I am almost certain we are going to be somewhere in between that area. Yes.

Tom said you said we have 60 outdated computers, but you're only replacing 30.

Adam said yes, so we go lucky, the Clerks and Courts got replaced by the state when they upgraded to Odyssey. So, I actually have a bunch of machines downstairs that I been upgrading the last week to the new versions.

Gary said so your repurposing some?

Adam said no, because the ones were taking out are Windows 7. So, I can't reuse them but I definitely would if I could. Everything we are putting in is a replacement for Windows 7. Many of these machines are for like the Sheriff's Department, Building Commissioner's Department, like departments that don't involve the courts.

Gary said I'm okay with all that personally. I don't see on here though, where the mechanism is for the funding right now. Is it the \$30,000.00 out of computer equipment, out of Cum Cap?

Laura said the Commissioner's have that in their budget and they told him he could use it. That is already appropriated, so the difference between the \$30,000 and the quote that you have now, he's ordered that so, he would need the difference.

Gary said \$17,000.00? Where are we at with Cum cap, do you think?

Angela said you can, it will be some of the Commissioner's maintenance budget.

Dave said what about Cares Act funds, can we use that?

Angela said I have \$70,000.00 left.

Dave said can we take that \$17,000 out of that?

Angela said sure.

Gary said we need to use that up first if it's allowable.

Dave made a motion to approve \$17,000.00 out of Cares Act funds towards the purchase of the 30 computers and the Microsoft office licenses. Max seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Diana Sutliff and Duane Petry- ambulance bids

Duane said we wanted to come in and say that the Commissioner's approved the purchase of an ambulance yesterday, \$201,771.00, to be delivered in about 300 days after we get a chassis.

Gary said 300 days after they get a chassis?

Duane said maybe.

Gary said so it's a year out?

Duane said actually 270 to 300 days after receipt of a signed acceptance of this contract.

Gary said is this the second one, this is not the one we just did.

Laura said this is the one you just approved. He just got the quote.

Duane said \$201,771.00.

Gary said we approved this out of windfarm funds, did we not?

Angela said yes, your approval was just for \$192,000.00, so you will just need to add to it.

Gary said does someone want to make a motion for the difference.

Max made a motion to approve paying the difference of what was previously approved to meet the \$201,771.00 out of windfarm. Missy seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Ceann Bales, Randolph County United

Gary said I added Ceann to the agenda, she asked me this morning to add her regarding Tourism funding an additional appropriation for their tourism budget. Before you start do you know what the current reserve is in the tourism account, not budgeted?

Scottie said it's about \$43,000.00. We are requesting to submit unbudgeted money to Randolph County United \$20,000.00.

Gary said what we have to do is give you the additional appropriation for \$20,000.00 to your budget and that specific line will be what you are going to spend to Randolph County United.

Scottie said you will amend the budget?

Gary said amending the budget for an additional appropriation of \$20,000.00, that \$20,000.00 for the Council is part of the budget module that made Randolph County United's budget.

Scottie said that was innkeepers' tax.

Gary said the way I see it is that Randolph County United will probably invoice the Tourism Commission for the specific of what the money is, which legally has to be certain things, which you have covered easily for \$20,000.00.

Dave said what is the \$20,000.00 for?

Gary said their budget included \$20,000.00 from the Tourism Commission to help pay the salary of the Tourism Director. The money can't go from the Randolph County Council directly to Randolph County United it's got to go as an additional appropriation of their budget which we passed last year, so that's what it's for.

Dave said salary expense.

Gary said salary expense or whatever is legal expense.

Laura said because we just learned of this, this morning. Angela has to advertise for an additional appropriation, so it will take some time and you can get with Angela on what you need to do.

Gary said you were willing to come back next month, so we started here and if it gets approved.

Ceann said do you need us to come back next month?

Gary said no.

Laura said one of you need to get with Angela to get the paperwork going for the advertisement.

Gary said does anyone have any questions about what is going on here?

Angela said here is the IC code.

Ceann said Angela, I know Scottie checked with the other Tourism and even one of the offices that is on the state Tourism board and she said it is interpretation and the tourisms across the state, everyone gets their salaries paid through innkeepers' tax.

Angela said all I have is the IC code to go by and it's not my call.

Gary said I spoke with Meeks on the IC code and it an allowable expense as long as it hopscotches over correctly.

Laura said we are not transferring the money to RCU. Were going to pay it directly out of Tourism.

Ceann said I know it's confusing Angela, we've been on several phone calls about it.

Gary said I checked into it and read it myself, talked with Meeks and am comfortable with this route is a legal and proper use those funds. Gary said I guess the motion can say pursuant to the IC code.

Ceann said is that okay Angela?

Angela said it's not my decision, I should not have jumped in.

Gary said we appreciate you giving guidance.

Angela said I have the IC code here and it says not for salaries.

Gary said it doesn't say not for salaries.

Angela said it doesn't say not for salaries, it just says what it can be used for.

Gary said it does not say not for salaries.

Angela said correct.

Gary said salaries is part of having a tourism commission, there are no if, and or buts. That's the perception. I think we can make a motion for \$20,000.00 from innkeeper tax to the tourism commission pursuant to the IC code and everything is fine. It's fine anyway. Any more questions.

Bev made a motion to appropriate \$20,000.00 from innkeepers' tax to the tourism commission. Max seconded.

Tom asked do we have to wait until this is advertised before we actually do this?

Gary said we can make the motion for it but it can't be paid until the advertising is done. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

All aye votes. Motion carried.

Other Business:
Report from Commissioners

Gary Girton said we opened another bridge bid yesterday, so were moving forward on bridge 110 on County Road 1200. We had intended to complete the contract for Headwater's II roads yesterday but that was not finished, so we could not do that. Tentatively we've agreed to repair and pave 28 mile, that's quite a bit different then we were a month or so ago and discussion had hoped to have signed this so that we could have gotten because Milestone who looks like will be doing the work tentatively, they could spend a week in August and finish it up in September, but that didn't happen so we are moving forward hopefully. The intent is to have it done by the end of September. We did make a lot of headway, originally the discussion was an eight to ten mile of repair and pave road and the rest was chip and seal. That was a big stumbling block for us. Particularly with our initial discussion. We did complete an ordinance for speed signs on the county roads in the solar farm area because the roads are not in good shape, a lot of issues there but that won't go into effect until after it's advertised twice before there can be actually any situations. Hopefully their going to put the signs up right away to discourage and control the speed somewhat. We still haven't got anywhere with Pyramid and the \$27,000.00 we paid which so far, they can't tell us anything about it, we've asked for a month for clarification and it's still hanging out there.

Gary Friend ask is there anymore discussion on the quality of the tower construction?

Gary Girton said that is my next comment. MPX says they have fixed and repaired and they've inspected the three PSC towers and they are satisfactory condition. Pyramid agrees with them, we don't agree with them as Commissioner's, so were trying to come up with a company that has professional third party to check these towers and as soon as we can find one that we think can cover our needs, we are going to hire them and have those three towers inspected. We have not had contact with the antenna and the equipment installation people that J & K hired to do because they refused to do anymore until things were corrected. That's where were at on that situation. We want to move forward as quickly as possible because we been told that the FCC will give us our licensing in September. We'd like to have the equipment up and installed and ready to go online as soon as we get our license but that may not happen now because we been told it's three to four weeks for J & K to get this up and going so the time we get it inspected and find out it's capable of doing what we want it to do and get them installing it, it's going to be passed that time. Anyway, were moving forward and as soon as we know more we will let you know.

Gary Friend said I'm glad to know there is a third party.

Gary Girton said I was a little disappointed in Pyramid saying they were satisfied that MPX repaired them and they were taking their word for it.

Gary Friend said the biggest thing is they said they had a bad employee there or a disgruntled one, which means if a disgruntled can do that, if that's even true, that there was no quality control oversight.

Gary Girton said that was an issue that really bothered me when that comment was made. The other fact was in one of the emails they said because it was laying in the grass they couldn't verify it but they moved it in order to install it, where was their inspector then. Anyway, a third party should alleviate all that. The last major thing that we want to bring to you is and I think most of you are aware of it, is the interlocal agreement that were trying to work out with Henry County on a Highway Engineer. We are moving forward on that, I assume everyone on the Council is aware of this and if not if you have any questions, I'll try to answer them and if now we will get you the answers because hopefully within the next month we can get far enough forward that we know this is going to happen. We would like for it to happen the latter part of this year but at least by the beginning of 2022.

Gary Friend asked is anybody not aware of the possibility of hiring a part time engineer? The way it is we will enter an agreement with Henry County and two days in Randolph County, Randolph County gets,

I think \$40,000.00 of assistance from the state, so our net impact if it goes that route would be like \$15,000.00 out of pocket once we get reimbursed, is that right?

Gary Girton said there about.

Gary Friend said also there is discussion if Henry County can't work it out with us, they got one Commissioner that is anti-right now, one that's on the fence and then their Council may not go for it. That's all got to be determined before we get into the next step. It's also a possibility that we can get our own engineer, take the \$40,000.00 and have 100% working for us. If that's the way we go, I think the Council ought to look at the possibility of funding that other than 100% out of MVH because if we have our own civil engineer working for us we have a lot of other things that they can look at for us as long as they are not being paid out of MVH which restricts them to highway use only. Not that we don't need them at the highway a lot. That's a discussion if we get our own down the road. If this doesn't work out with Henry County.

Gary Girton said I think we're a little further down the line with Henry County than we were a few weeks ago.

Gary Friend okay, my last briefing on it was they had not bought off down there.

Gary Girton said they had not but we're told there is movement toward an agreement. At least that's a starting point that will help us greatly because with a civil engineer on board.

Gary Friend said I think Mike \$200,000.00 in engineering fees in one bridge alone?

Mike Haffner said we had \$225,000.00 in three bridges in Windsor.

Gary Girton said the other thing we were talking about office help at the Highway, this person would be capable with the knowledge they have of overseeing all this paperwork and instantly knowing what's right and what's wrong and what needs to be done and dates and times and so on. That would help with our situation right now.

Gary Friend asked when do you think the Commissioner's will know?

Gary Girton said we are hoping within a month. We were reluctant to start with from the financial standpoint until we found out that both counties could get the \$40,000.00 from the state.

Gary Friend said the more I look at it the more I wonder if we shouldn't just have one that's all ours.

Gary Girton said I don't disagree with that. Personally, what I would like to see is to start there, get things up and going. See where were at a year or two down the road and move that way. I think with where were at now, I think it will help us particularly with our bridges. Our bridge engineering work is killing us financially because we've got so many. We've got five years out on bridge plans now. SJCA has really helped keep us on schedule with that.

Minutes of June 14, 2021 Joint meeting

Max made a motion to accept the minutes. Dave seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Ridgeville Library Board Appointment

Max made a motion to appoint Kay Shawver to the Ridgeville Library Board. Rick seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Ordinance 2021-09 Assessor Salary Ordinance amendment

Gary asked what is the salary ordinance for the Assessor?

Laura said George hired a new deputy and the previous deputy was making the additional \$500.00, so this is putting it back to before she gets her certification.

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-09
AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SALARY ORDINANCE NO. 2020-15
AMENDING RANDOLPH COUNTY'S ASSESSOR BUDGET

WHEREAS: There has been a change in the 2021 Salary Ordinance with regard to the Randolph County Assessor Budget and it is necessary to amend the 2021 Salary Ordinance and to change the Second Deputy pay in the Salary Ordinance effective with the pay of August 13, 2021 as follows:

COUNTY ASSESSOR OFFICE
SECOND DEPUTY
\$1118.27 PER PAY

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

SECTION 1. Ordinance No. 2021-15, 2021 Salary Ordinance pertaining to Randolph
COUNTY'S ASSESSOR OFFICE shall be amended to read as follows:

COUNTY ASSESSOR OFFICE
SECOND DEPUTY
\$1118.27 PER PAY

Dave made a motion to have the first reading of Ordinance 2021-09 by title only. Rick seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Max made a motion to suspend the rules and have the second and third reading of Ordinance 2021-09 by title only and adopt the same day. Rick seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Max made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-09. Rick seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Comp time reports

Additional Appropriations:

Coroner	Fuel	\$800.00
----------------	------	----------

Tom made a motion to approve the additional appropriation as presented. Max seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

General	IT Contact	\$30,000.00
----------------	------------	-------------

Dave made a motion to approve the additional appropriation as presented. Bev seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

General CPR Compression Device \$27,585.00

Max made a motion to approve the additional appropriation as presented. Rick seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Children's Advocate Training \$2000.00
 Postage \$200.00
 Travel/Mileage \$2000.00
 Volunteer Recruitment \$5000.00
 Advertising \$1000.00

Bev made a motion to approve the additional appropriation as presented. Max seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Landfill Host Fee Road Projects \$500,000.00
 Wheel Tax \$1,000,000.00

Gary asked what projects are these appropriated to?

Angela said I do not know.

Gary asked Mike do you know?

Mike Haffner said for chip and seal.

Tom made a motion to approve. Rick seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.


Citizen Comments (3-minute limit)

None

Adjournment

Rick made a motion to adjourn. Max seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Reviewed and accepted this 5 day of October , 2021.

RANDOLPH COUNTY COUNCIL


Rick Brew

Beverly Fields

Missy Wells

L. Robert Holiday
[Signature]

ATTESTED: Laura J Martin
Laura J Martin, Auditor