

Randolph County Council

March 2, 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

Mary Ann Lenkensdofer and Greg Sickels – Airport Additional Appropriation

Greg said I am Greg Sickels, President of Randolph County Airport Board of Commissioner's. We are here to request an appropriation of \$30,000.00 for the airport, the majority of that money will be used for striping on the current runway and then also some engineering expenses.

Mary Ann said do you want to share with them what the bid was? I think we gave you a higher bid because that's what we were told it would probably be.

Greg said yes, the initial estimate was significantly more, we got five bids and the lowest one came in at \$24,857.00.

Gary said for the striping?

Greg said yes.

Gary said the rest would be for the engineering fees?

Greg said yes, \$3065.00 on the engineering fees.

Gary said for the Council this \$30,000.00 is money that was reimbursed back from the Cares Act. It had to be redeposited back into county general and then council has to appropriate it out for the purpose needed.

Max made a motion to approve the additional appropriation of \$30,000.00 for the airport project and engineering fees. Missy seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Other Business:

Report from Commissioners

Mike said we had a long agenda yesterday, mostly it was paying claims that we hadn't paid in a long time. Mostly to do with the communication project. First, I would like to say on the communications project the towers are going up, the steel is here for the towers. We received a report from Randolph United's technology committee yesterday that they are recommending against putting up the four broadband towers of 180'. They believe that we don't need four at this time, we need one at the Davis Purdue farm is what they are recommending and they recommend it to be a minimum of 220'. They are also recommending that we seek advice from broadband consulting firms to determine whether or not we do need more and whether they are marketable and where they would go up. They are pursuing that to see if there are any firms out there that would meet our needs for that. What that leaves us with is four 180' towers that we at this point in time don't really have a use for. The good news on that is, Todd Durnil reported yesterday that Blackford County wants four and I believe Kosciusko County wants four 180' towers and we can sell them to one or other of those counties because our cost is less than what they bid them out to be. Trusting Todd and Terry that we can sell those, we should come out whole on those four towers because we paid for them. They are not here yet, they are still at the manufacturer's site. It should be an easy transaction, we have hope in that. If that doesn't happen those towers all can be converted to a 200-foot tower but cannot be converted any higher than that. I am not an expert but what I heard through the different emails and conversations the 180' towers don't give the home-based broadband what a 220' would but it would give you cell connection and I think that is where the 180' came in. Regardless of that we are going ahead with the communication project and I think once we get the 180' towers out of the way we get a consultant from Randolph United to tell us that the 220' is valuable and the Davis Purdue farm is the best location then I think we would be prepared to support that in some way or another. On your agenda you will see MVH restricted funds for Community Crossing matches, I don't know if you are aware of where those go but the Community Crossing for this year is for 900 W between St Rd 32 and St Rd 1, 400 N between St Rd 1 and 1000 W and Old 27 S from 27 to Base Rd. That is where that match is going. Also bridge 85 has a \$50,000.00 appropriation and bridge 32 has a \$50,000.00 appropriation, these are coming from the bridge cum fund and that is to start the process for our federal grants on both those projects which amounts to a little over \$3 million combined.

Gary said what location are those?

Mike said bridge 32 is out on 100 W just north of 100 N or just south of 225, it is down to one lane now and then bridge 85 is the one Old 27 out by the old Mall Brothers plant.

Gary said is that historic because of the old side pillars?

Mike said we have not determined that. I don't think it has been designated as historic yet but it may be select. Our match for both of those comes to a little over \$1 million and as you recall what we have done is identified that we would use either cum bridge, Economic Development fund or wind farm funds to come up with that match and that match is spanned over from this appropriation to 2026 is when that money is going to have to be spent. It is a long process; however, we are and have authorized Perry Knox and Mike to pursue an acceleration on bridge 32, that sounds exciting but that is one year, it moves it up from 2026 to 2025. It does help in that respect.

Gary said is that \$1 million per bridge or \$1 million total?

Mike said our match?

Gary said yes.

Mike said it is \$1 million total, that also includes design fees. Basically, that is our match for everything plus having to pay design fees and if we can get design fees paid for by the grant which sometimes happens then I think our match will come down in that respect. The fourth thing we talked about and I am not sure you are aware but we approve and we are going to purchase some farm ground down on 800 S on section at 1100 W and one section at 1200 W and it is where those two roads jog and because of the windfarm, the windfarm people negotiated with the farmers to straighten that road so they could get their materials in there. As the roads been straightened we determined it might be best to keep that straightened so we are paying about \$12,000.00 for two small parcels of farm ground at the corner of 1100 W and 800 S and 1200 W and 800 S which the windfarm is going to build the road there, which they have already built somewhat of a road there, but they are going to complete the project with the road use agreement. We have to buy the perpetual right away highway easement from the two farmers and it is \$12,000.00 and we voted to do that and voted to use windfarm money, which we can't do that independently of this body so I am here to request the \$12,000.00. I believe its under \$12,000.00 and our request is to complete this transaction that we spend the money out of windfarm, it is kind of windfarm related and I would ask the Council to support that decision.

Dave said I just have one comment, anytime you can straighten the road, you need to do it. I am in favor this.

Max said that section of 800 S and 1200 W, that will definitely make that intersection safer.

Max made a motion to approve spending up to \$12,000.00 of windfarm funds to purchase the two perpetual highway easements for this project. Dave seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Randolph County Sheriff annual jail report for 2020

Art said you all received a copy of the annual jail inspection report, I think we had a really good inspection this year. We did not get dinged on anything. Our numbers are down, we had 49 on the jail census. Everything within the jail is coming along. Chris's project is getting there, they are getting the room back in shape, so the 911 center is looking pretty good.

Gary asked Chris Shaneyfelt do you have anything to add?

Chris said I sent out an email previously to you about getting the demo dumpster.

Gary said is that all done?

Chris said just about, the furniture people are in the building today and they should have that done today, the electricians were back in this morning running the grounding wires to ground the complete floor. Hopefully today or tomorrow we can start moving furniture back in. Then get the rest of the new construction materials and boxes out of there. The demo is completely done, so the dumpster came in at \$434.00 and that is not in any of the project fees. We will need an appropriation to take care of that dumpster.

Gary said Chris emailed me about this, I agreed since we need to continue on. We can take it out of Cum cap. Angela where are we at for that particular claim for that?

Angela said the Commissioner's said they would pay for this out of their Cum Cap line.

Gary said is that part of the \$1805.00 they have on their Cum cap?

Angela said that is not, that is a vehicle purchase. Chris approached them yesterday, he has another claim also, the Commissioner's said they would pay for it out of their line, they have a line where money is readily available and that would be the Commissioner's line in Cum cap development.

Gary said they are going to take care of it, it doesn't need Council action?

Angela said you are still over the money, just let them know its okay to spend the money.

Gary said does anybody have any questions for Chris on the \$434.00 for the Dumpster? Does somebody want to make a motion to approve that?

Rick made a motion to approve \$434.00 to be paid out of Commissioner's cum cap for the dumpster. Missy seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Chris said the second part was when we started tearing the room apart, there was four different paint colors on the walls, brown, blue, yellow and white so I went and purchased paint to make it look decent. What I am trying to do is get reimbursed for the paint, the total cost of the paint and supplies to do it was \$304.66.

Gary said this is a personal reimbursement back to you, out of County general?

Angela said the Commissioner's said they would do CCD.

Max made a motion to approve the payment to Chris for paint and supplies in the amount of \$304.66 out of CCD. Bev seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Chris said I've got pictures of the room remodel as we are going along and I told the Commissioner's yesterday I would do a power point and send it out to you like I do the situation reports.

Gary said when do you see this being done as far as your part goes?

Chris said they got the electric contractors starting work at the county highway, they are just waiting for the ground to thaw enough that they can dig the trench that they need. The tower steel at two of the sites is completely built. Tower steel at Deerfield is, I would say 66% built, there is just not enough space to lay the towers out, so they are going to do that as they go. The equipment shacks have been changed from fiber glass to steel because the company that provides the fiber glass ones would not give us a delivery date and we didn't want to delay the project any further so we switched to steel. Same cost. That is basically where we are standing, we are completing the room today and now we are just waiting on the ground to thaw so we can put the towers up.

Minutes of November 4, December 8, December 14, 2020 & January 5, January 28, 2021

Tom made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Max seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Washington Twp. Library appointment

Gary said this is an appointment of Sharon Abshear to the Washington Township Library.

Dave made a motion to approve the appointment of Sharon Abshear to Washington Township Library. Max seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Additional Appropriations:

Gary said the additional appropriations for the highway department, Mike Wickersham went over and are as follows.

Highway Department

Bridge 85	\$50,000.00
Large Pipe	\$75,000.00
Bridge 32	\$50,000.00
Bridge 110	\$50,000.00
Bridge Inspections	\$100,000.00

Gary said where do the rest of these come from, they are not all Cum Bridge are they?

Angela said yes, we do not budget Cum bridge it's in the code so we have to appropriate.

Bev made a motion to approve the additional appropriations for Cum Bridge. Max seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

CCD

Building Commissioner	\$1,805.00
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Max made a motion to approve the additional appropriation from CCD as presented. Dave seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Health

Pay acting Health Nurse \$12,000.00

Max said I got my shot in another county and I wasn't all that impressed. My wife got her shot out here at the fair grounds and I felt like they were very professional, well prepared, I was really impressed with the job they did out there.

Dave said I agree with Max, Mary Ann and I both had ours out there at the Randolph County Fair grounds and they did an excellent job.

Max made a motion to approve the additional appropriation to pay the acting health nurse. Dave seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Rick said I would also like to say with everything they have been through, with Wendy being ill and basically running it without her from the very beginning. You couldn't ask for a better job and hopefully Wendy will get back soon and she has done a good job with the testing before she got sick. We got some good people running things.

Health

Public Health Nurse	\$1,833.96
Social Security	\$ 113.71
Medicare	\$ 26.60
Perf	\$ 205.41

Gary said the next additional appropriation is for our Public Health Nurse comp time pay out that we agreed to.

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

MVH Restricted

Comm Crossing Match	\$108,752.56
Comm Crossing Match	\$ 94,496.88
Comm Crossing Match	\$ 81,736.69

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

Children's Advocate

Coordinator Fee	\$21,700.00
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Gary said Children's Advocate coordinator fee. What's that?

Angela said when they do the budget in the beginning there isn't enough so throughout the year they do additional appropriations. The judge sent a letter as to what he would like the coordinator to make and we suggested they just do a one-time appropriation and get the line where it needs to be.

Gary said this is all coming from grant money, right?

Angela said some of it comes from county general.

Gary said how much comes from county general, do you know?

Angela said \$21,000.00 for the entire fund. They are going to get a grant this year for \$14,000.00, they have some carry over cash and the county gives them \$21,000.00.

Gary said what is the total coordinator fee?

Angela said \$36 or \$34,000.00, I don't remember what the letter said.

Gary said is that a part time position, is that a full time?

Angela said it is a contract position. There aren't any benefits associated with that.

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

Community Corrections PI

Group Insurance \$ 6,800.00

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

Citizen Comments (3-minute limit)

Missy said there will be a ribbon cutting over at Randolph Eastern School Corporation Friday at 1:00 pm. The Director of OCRA, Victoria Herring from the Department of Education, the Department of Agricultural and the assistant director of the Department of Education will be there. If any of you could make it, I'm sure they would love to talk to you.

Dave said I have that on Thursday, is that correct.

Missy said yes, it is Thursday at 1:00 pm.

Adjournment

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

Reviewed and accepted this 6 day of April, 2021.

RANDOLPH COUNTY COUNCIL

[Signature]
Ricky Brax
Beverly J. Fields
[Signature]
[Signature]
David Benkenlofer
[Signature]

ATTESTED: Laura J Martin
Laura J Martin, Auditor