

Randolph County Commissioners

September 19, 2022

The Randolph County Commissioners met at their regular meeting at 9:00AM in the Commissioners and Council Room in the Courthouse with the following members present: Board President Michael Wickersham, Tom Chalfant and Gary Girton. Also present was Randolph County Auditor Laura J Martin, Sheriff Art Moystner and County Attorney Meeks Cockerill.

Michael Wickersham, President presided over the meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mindy Peed, Clerk – filing cabinets

Mike said first item on the agenda is Mindy Peed our clerk and Jake Donham.

Mindy said I'm bringing Jake for backup. I've got about 50 filing cabinets to get rid of, 35 just in the down, in the second floor. About 20 in the old hospital. So, I've talked to Jake about that.

Mike said I guess they are empty.

Mindy said they are.

Jake said they are. I went over there and talked to Matt Tarter, Tarter Realty, just to kind of see what, how that is handled. He said oh yeah we'd be interested in moving them for you. We can do it many a different way. Said we can sell them on site, you can deliver them to us or we can come and get them, run them through an auction, could do that. And he said if there's anything else in the county, items we wanted to put in it, he'd be whatever, whatever works.

Mike said so we need to declare them a surplus. So, we need to have a resolution to that effect to declare it a surplus. I suppose we would. Put a notice out to all departments that if they have surplus they could add it to it.

Meeks said you just have to, we'll get a resolution declaring a surplus. And whatever you want to do with everybody else is up to you guys.

Mike said okay.

Jake said I would probably send an email to all the department heads and say if you have any surplus equipment of any kind, put a list together and let you guys know at the next meeting. And when they come to get the cabinets, maybe they'd get the other stuff too.

Mike said can the auditor's do that, auditor do that for us.

Sherri said yes.

Meeks said you did want Matt Tarter to auction it.

Mike said I think since he talked to him.

Meeks said well we can put that in the resolution.

Mike said okay and I would say just have them sell it.

Meeks said you want him to pick it up.

Jake said yeah that way you don't have to worry about some local people coming in and timing.

Mike said that's a good idea. Okay.

Mindy said okay.

Mike said you might have to wait a little bit, but we'll get rid of them.

Mindy said that's okay.

Mike said thank you Mindy.

Mindy said yeah thanks.

Mike said good job Jake.

Jake said no problem.

Stephanie Lanter – Stop sign at 150 S and 200 W

Mike said so I think at our meeting a month ago, I indicated that I didn't quite understand the highway department's theory on children at play, but after some research, I found out that the state highway department does not recommend those signs because they encourage children to play there. And they also, if it's, one of the other reasons was if it's intermittent, peoples tend to ignore those signs. And then when they don't need to ignore it something could happen. I've talked to the sheriff and there's not really been any accidents in that area to justify a stop sign. And my only solution would be a compromise, and that would be to offer a hidden drive sign, because if you drive that road, if your house is the one I'm thinking of, it has a hidden drive. It's on the other side of the rise in the road. I don't know how the other commissioners feel about that, and I've really not discusses it with the highway department, but it probably, it could slow people down. It might not, but it is, it does I guess, meet the standard that the drive always there, and it's always hidden. So, it might be a compromise. I can't agree to put a stop sign out there. Again, I don't know how Gary and Tom feel. And I don't think that children at play sign is warranted in this situation here. So, my only solution would be a hidden drive sign. I don't, I see Joe. Joe do you have any thoughts on a hidden drive sign.

Joe Copeland said just as you stated, if it's not, sign distance is not there, then you can put a sign up.

Mike said have you looked at it.

Joe Copeland said no sir.

Mike said would you ask Mike to go out and look at it for us, or you go look at it and see if it warrants that.

Joe Copeland said okay.

Mike said okay. Is that okay. What do you think Gary?

Gary said yeah I agree with that at this time.

Mike said so that's a compromise that we can offer this morning.

Stephanie Lanter said alright. Thank you.

Mike said thank you. You want to make a motion on that.

Tom made a motion to put a hidden drive sign up. Gary seconded.

Mike said and that's subject to the highway department's approval.

All aye votes. Motion carried.

Rachel Downing – Bridge closing on 750 W

Mike said well we have had our highway department look into, Joe Copeland's here from the highway department and bridges, and I see a representative from SJCA here as well, who is our bridge inspectors. And both Joe, our local highway department and the bridge inspector has indicated that the, correct me if I'm wrong here, but the west truss of that bridge is completely broken. And they've indicated that even passing small mowers, and I guess garden tractors and mowers is going to be a danger to whoever's crossing that. And I believe an opening, I read, at six feet is going to encourage others to drive across, I presume, or try to drive across with something larger than what you guys would be doing. So, we've been advised by our bridge engineer and our bridge inspector that we should not open that up to any traffic.

Rachel Downing said pedestrian neither, no walking across it.

Joe said can't stop that.

Mike said I don't see how we can stop walking I guess.

Mr. Downing said that's actually worse now that you guys have it blocked off because people just pull up there. There's no traffic coming through so there's no reason for them to get off the bridge.

Tom said do they fish off of it.

Rachel Downing said yeah. Before they would go under, which they're still going under, but now they're fishing off of it.

Mr. Downing said more beer cans that are showing up too.

Rachel Downing said right.

Mike said well the, I guess the solution to that would be more patrolling out there and try, to try to stop that. I don't think the solution is to open the bridge, because that's going to create more danger to everybody. And there's two options here and we've talked about, well there's more than two. But one

option would be to repair the west truss, and I don't know what that entails. And I'm not sure we've investigated that. But if we repaired the west truss, that would only give us the option of opening up for a smaller traffic, which brings with it the potential liability of others driving across there. Again, we've been advised at this time to keep it closed and investigate how to get it open.

Rachel Downing said as for the application that we talked about last time, is that going to be moving forward.

Mike said well that's probably what we're going to be deciding this morning for at our next meeting. Joe do you want to come up and give us some direction on this. We do have approximate fees here for replacement of this bridge.

Joe Copeland said we looked at three different options. One was federal aid and any federal money available to do it, but you're talking about construction date, the 2028 or 2029 to do that. I believe that's the least cost alternative but requires a lot longer time.

Mike said least cost to the county.

Joe Copeland said yes. The next alternative was Community Crossing matching grant funds, which pays 75% of the construction cost. The earliest we can apply for that funding is 2024 right now. We're already scheduled another bridge in 2023, which is bridge 304. And of course, with that funding, since it's coming from the state, we have to follow all the state requirements. And that includes all permits, IDEM, Section 106. Least that we don't have to do what they call a bridge report on the non-select historic bridge. But the estimated cost, I have the cost here, the estimated engineering cost fees with, that includes permits, the hydraulics, Geo technical services which will be needed definitely for that bridge. Engineering, \$265,000.00. That's just the engineers. The bridge cost is estimated in 2024, at \$1,323,000. Today's cost would be \$1.2 they're estimating 5% inflation. And then the last alternative was to go completely local funds, that that was somewhat quicker, but quite a bit more expensive, especially at the cost of up to over 1.2 million.

Tom said well what type of structure is this.

Joe Copeland said it's not, it hadn't been determined. It probably would be a concrete structure, three span. The bridge now is 80, over 80 feet. I expect to see the bridge somewhere between 100 and 120 feet probably.

Tom said you said that would be a clear span bridge.

Joe Copeland said no it would be, it will have abutments, I'm pretty sure. The problem, the longer span you go the taller the beams have to be to handle it. And sometimes with the flow, you can't get that thick member.

Tom said one or two pillars then.

Joe Copeland said yeah. Two usually because you don't want to set one. So, if you want my recommendation, it would be to use Community Crossing matching grant.

Mike said so where does this bridge fall in the list of priority bridges for the county for repair and replacement.

Joe Copeland said well it's not hasn't, it's not one, the list has not, the new list has not been put together. But I suspect it will be higher up on the list since it's closed.

Rachel Downing said the funding you're talking about, how, what year time span, does that look like.

Joe Copeland said well if we apply in 2024, they usually let us know two to three months after the application. The applications are in January and July. And two, three months after that, we'll know. And then we proceed to bid the project. Once the project is bid, then we send that to the state and get our money. They will pay up to \$1,000,000.00 per year, but not over that.

Rachel Downing said and after that, after we get the approval for the funds, then how long do you foresee it to be.

Joe Copeland said as fast as the contractor. It's, it would be by the specifications on the limit that the contractor would have to do the job.

Tom said it's usually done within a year.

Joe Copeland said oh yes, yeah.

Mike said so we'd be looking at sometime at the end of 2025 that this bridge would be completed.

Joe Copeland said oh yeah easy, yes. Yeah if they can't do it in six months, they should have stayed home.

Rachel said is that include the, considering the option of going around it.

Joe Copeland said no. That's replacing it. Going around it, you're talking additional road work, and you are still going to have to have a bridge. So, I mean the cost goes up because of the additional road.

Mike said and you wouldn't recommend any repair to that bridge to allow for a load limit.

Joe Copeland said I've thought about that. But my understanding is I don't know if any, what the other members look like, I do know, I think Dan inspected it, the fellow that does the load ratings. And I'm afraid you are going to go down there and take that, the, they're going to try to find, to weld on another piece to it, and they're not going to find a portion of a piece that they could weld to it. They may be able to hit it with an arc welder and it goes right through it.

Tom said well I mean, all the under, all the beams need to be replaced while we're doing it. You might as well put a whole new deck on it.

Joe Copeland said because you're going to end up raising a load limit maybe this, I mean a small amount, just temporarily. That has to all be designed and the load ratings redone. And yeah, it's not an easy task.

Mike said any thoughts about you could repair to ensure these small loads, 70 to 72 inches wide.

Joe Copeland said yeah even with that.

Mr. Downing said so you don't think it's a possibility to fix the structure for, to what it was four times before.

Joe Copeland said I think you may be wasting your time. I mean, they may come out in this inspection, this bridge is inspected yearly. So, every year. So, they may come out next year and find another one suspended, and close it anyway. Don't know what the weather's going to do. This piece rusted away, completely in two. That's the quickest, most economical route in my opinion.

Mike said well are you of the opinion that this bridge should be one we pursue Community Crossing in 2024.

Joe Copeland said I think for the locals, yeah it would probably be a good idea to raise it up on the list.

Gina said well again I bring up that the alternative until this is fixed, or if it's never fixed, is we use a road that's extremely unsafe, leave our property and go to the highway.

Joe Copeland said I did look up accident history of 200 South and 300 South. I couldn't find one accident.

Mr. Downing said because everybody takes 100.

Tom said I've contacted our state representative, state senator about it.

Gina said I know of four people personally, who have had accidents there.

Joe Copeland said well I look it up in the State police.

Gina said yeah I mean they might have been considered minor and maybe they don't get registered in there.

Mike said what were you saying Tom.

Tom said I've contacted our state senator and state representative about trying to remove that hazard, and it was apparently planned earlier. I had a contractor down there that's give me a price estimate so we'd know when we talked to the state, but the problem is, you need to contact your state representative and senator and explain the situation to them, and tell them you would like the state to correct that safety problem there on 200.

Rachel Downing said let's say we do get in contact with them and they would like that, what would that time frame look like.

Tom said it's just applying people and getting it on the, to say with this INDOT, it's I don't know. But it took me nine months to get a reply to a complaint I had before, which, anyway, it's not. But the more people that are yanking on their chain about it, the better off they are.

Joe Copeland said Tom you went to the right, you went the right route to try to get something done, elected officials.

Mike said well I guess I, sorry I put you on the spot so. I think it might be appropriate that you and our highway superintendent sit down and look at our bridge inventory, and I don't know when the rest of the inspections will be done.

Joe Copeland said they're required to have them done by the end of the month.

Mike said so we could look at all the inspections and just maybe get an updated priority list that needs repair, replacement, and see where this one falls in the entire inventory.

Joe Copeland said that might not be for a couple of months, because once they do field work, then they've got to go to the office and do all the office work, paper work to put all that together. So, it may be a couple of months yet.

Mike said so is that going to pass a deadline for this being a potential 2024 Community Crossings.

Joe Copeland said as far as.

Mike said starting this process right away.

Rachel Downing said you said you apply in January.

Joe Copeland said we, yeah, all we need, all we need is approval and where funds are going to come from. We could get this started.

Mike said when do we need to start it, I guess is the question.

Joe Copeland said when we need too. If we're serious about doing it, we want to apply for Community Crossings, it's always in our best interest to have the engineering far enough along that the state sees we're serious. We're going to do this project. So, if we had the engineering done prior to the application or just prior to, and permits in hand, it'll go a long way getting it funded.

Gary said so you're saying that's January of 24 is when you have to apply.

Joe Copeland said yes.

Mike said Perry you have a comment.

Perry said yeah just normally, on a Community Crossing bridge replacement project, if the bridge is not a historic designated bridge, 12 or 14 months, but because that bridge is a historic non-select, we'd probably need 16 to 18 months. So not to go against what Joe is saying, but if we were to be under contract today, you might need the second call 24, because we don't know what we're getting into, when we apply to the state's historical commission to replace a bridge.

Joe Copeland said Section 106.

Perry said yeah because that'll slow us down. But there's no reason why we shouldn't be able to do it, get it in by the second call 24, if we can get under contract by the first of the year.

Joe Copeland said we can get the Geo tech done, and some things up front done to help.

Mike said well I guess I don't have a problem doing it if it's one that we want to do in 2024. I hear a little, I guess I'm not certain that you're certain that we should.

Joe Copeland said I, this, worst case scenario, the bridge is closed. How's that going to hurt the local residents. That's my problem.

Mike said do we have a traffic count on that road.

Joe Copeland said no.

Gina said they've done it. They've taken it, I mean they've had the things across the road.

Mike said have they.

Tom said it's been awhile I think.

Gina said in the last year.

Mike said I just know when we get the bridge report from SJCA, they'll give us a priority list that we can follow. And I don't want to pay them to do all that, and then us change that recommendation. And I'm not saying that I don't want to do this bridge. I'm just saying that if we've got time to wait on that recommendation, I think we should wait on the recommendation.

Rachel Downing said my concern Mike, there's a, which obviously, we know things take time, but the issue of the 200 exiting from there, that's not going to go away. So, for us, the sooner we do things, the better we think is a priority, not just for our own convenience, but for our safety as well.

Mike said right.

Rachel Downing said and so for us, we feel there is a safety need that maybe other bridges might not have with exiting and coming on to that road. So that's just us pleading our case.

Mike said our inspector will take that into consideration though. They do that if I recall. It's a pretty thorough report.

Rachel Downing said right.

Mike said and what we would be talking about would be delaying as I just heard, six months, if we wait. Because if we want it in January, 2024, we have to make a decision today. If we want it in July of 2024, we can make a decision, we can make a decision after we get the inspection report.

Joe Copeland said the 284 was in the rehab list and not on a replace list. Now I'm sure it'll be moved to the replacement list.

Mike said and that report was done when.

Joe said 20.

Mike said 20. So, it's, it's rusted through in two years. Makes you wonder what the east one is going to look like.

Joe Copeland said well that's what I'm afraid of. If we repair one side, we may have another problem on the other side.

Tom said do we know the date of construction of that bridge.

Mike said Perry would have it in that book back there.

Perry said what's that.

Mike said the day of construction of 284. Do you have that.

Perry said it's like 1910 I think. You talking about the original construction.

Mike said I guess that's why it's historic.

Gina said well it's picturesque. I mean, it's unusual, you know. But I, they're never going to probably rebuild it like that, which is what it is.

Tom said well right. You got two others about like it.

Mike said I guess the question is, do we want to wait, or do we want to make a decision today based upon Joe's recommendation.

Joe said 1915.

Tom said well I guess I'm willing to wait to see what they have more information. Hopefully we can proceed with having highway one, working on that idea of it.

Mike said what do you think Gary.

Gary said well I think we need to see the whole picture of what we've got in bridges. I'm not saying that I don't want to move forward on this one. But once they inspect these, or finish inspection, we get the report from them, then we'll know if there is a, if this one needs to be moved down one or if it could be moved up.

Mike said we've already got plans for 23 I trust.

Joe Copeland said 114.

Rachel Downing said the other issue is the turnarounds. I don't know if anything has gotten decided about that. We just have constant traffic in our driveway, so the sooner we get something on that, I would appreciate it.

Gina said the county was, some guy was looking at that and contacted us.

Mike said Mike's not here this morning.

Rachel Downing said I know he was reaching out to other people who own land around us. I just didn't know if anything has come of that yet.

Mike said I've not received any report, but we'll keep him on that. And I guess as far as pedestrian traffic on the bridge, I don't know if we can eliminate that altogether or not. But I think presence of officers in that area might assist in that situation. So, I do know we had the same situation out on a bridge closer to Winchester where they were parking on the bridge, because it's a one lane bridge, and they were parking on the bridge to fish off of it. So, we eliminated that. So is it our consensus that we wait to hear back from SJCA.

Gary said in my perspective, yes.

Mike said or unless you and Mike and SJCA get together and can kind of take a risk and say this does have priority for 2024, if you want to relay that back to us and I guess we can move quicker.

Joe Copeland said I'll start some emails.

Mike said end of the year. And that might get us into the January time frame. I just don't want to make a quick decision and regret it, I guess. And I'll reach out to Mike and see what he's thought about the turnaround. And I think Tom's advice was probably good advice, to reach out to state senator and see if we can get some help on Highway One.

Rachel Downing said alright thank you.

Mike said it is what it is yeah. So, we'll keep working on it. Thank you.

Joe Copeland said can I add one item.

Mike said yeah you can.

Joe Copeland said tomorrow I want to go up.

Mike said what time tomorrow.

Joe Copeland said we're going to leave in the morning at eight.

Mike said okay.

Joe Copeland said the inspectors are doing the bridge inspections, and they're finding what they call critical findings. Okay, and I'm sure you've seen some emails flying around.

Mike said I saw you email, yes.

Joe Copeland said so far, we have seven critical findings on bridges. And they range from problem like bridge 308, problems with a plate that was placed on the bridge deck some time back.

Mike said is that in Winchester.

Joe Copeland said yes on Short.

Mike said Short Street.

Joe Copeland said yes. We had to close the shoulder and the sidewalk. Of course, we had closed 284. We had approach slabs undermined, voids beneath the inverts, which resulted in voids underneath the asphalt on approaches, guard rail bolts were missing. We have one that had a void between some pipes. The majority seem to be voids, erosion, I'm not sure on some of them. But they're getting taken care of. Luckily, we have that contractor in the, it's on an annual bid contract in the county, working on 159. And I'm having him jump off and go over here and fix a lot of these. He fixed one last week on Wednesday or Thursday on 500 West north of 32, bridge 89. It's approach slab is bad. And he fixed that.

Mike said so that one's been repaired.

Joe Copeland said yeah. I've got, right now, I have four out of the seven done. So, we're getting there. We got thirty days to complete.

Mike said so 308, there's a plan for 308 then.

Joe Copeland said 308 has the, we placed some barricades and concrete up there to keep people off that side of the bridge.

Mike said okay.

Joe Copeland said and we closed 284, and the approach slabs are done. And they were, and a void between the pipes on 133 has been repaired also. So, we only have three more to do.

Mike said okay.

Joe Copeland said unless they find more.

Mike said okay.

Joe Copeland said that could happen. Alright thank you.

Mike said thank you. I don't see anyone from council here this morning.

Bob McCoy, Winchester Mayor update

Mike asked Bob do you have anything for us this morning.

Bob McCoy said I've been trying to figure out what's going to happen with the corner café building. I'm going to meet with some people today as far as demo estimates, demo a portion, demo the whole thing. Also working with Greg Beumer to see if he can possibly write a grant through OCRA for a demo. A lot of unanswered questions still. So, we're on a tight time frame getting OCRA help. So just having a continuous battle trying to get this all figured out.

Mike said do you have control of that property.

Bob said we do not.

Mike said okay. Thank you.

Other Business:

Art Moystner, Randolph County Sheriff

\$25,000 from Commissioners Bldg. Maint. To Jail Bldg. Maint.

Mike said other business. Art, Randolph County Sheriff, transferring \$25,000 from our building maintenance to the jail building maintenance. Is this for the repairs you were talking about at the last council meeting.

Art Moystner said it is. We have some things that are outstanding. It's just, it's been an interesting year with the price of things surging the way they have.

Mike said any questions of Art. I need a motion to approve this transfer.

Gary made a motion to approve this transfer. Tom seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Mike said anything else for us this morning.

Art Moystner said I just wanted to make sure you'd all received the email on the radio quotes.

Mike said I've got that on my list down here so we're going to take about it later if you can stick around.

Art Moystner said I will. Thank you.

Minutes of June 20, 22 – June 20th executive session & July 5, 22

Mike said that brings us to our minutes of June 20th and July 5th. One was an executive session. We received a copy of these via email. Any additions, corrections or deletions to those minutes. Hearing none, I'd entertain a motion to approve all three sets.

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

Payroll Claims \$ 226,794.31

Mike said that brings us to our payroll claims in the amount of \$226,794.31. I'd entertain a motion to approve the payroll claims as presented.

Gary made a motion to approve payroll claims as presented. Tom seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Payroll Deduction Claims \$255,209.40

Mike said next claim is the payroll deduction claim in the amount of \$255,209.40. I'd entertain a motion to approve the payroll deduction claim.

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

Regular Claims \$1,509,346.40

Mike said next item is our regular claims, the amount of \$1,509,346.40. These were presented to us via email, and I trust we've all had a chance to review them. I'd entertain a motion to approve the regular claims.

Gary made a motion to approve the regular claims as presented. Tom seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

J&K Communications Claim \$118,739.34

Mike said next claim is the J&K Communications claim in the amount of \$118,739.34. I believe this was left over from last month, and is retainage on the contract.

Gary said I don't think the highway has got their issue resolved yet, so I don't think we need to move on this until we get that worked out.

Mike said okay. The consensus is that we'll table that until the highway gets their issue resolved.

Head Start Lease

Mike said that brings us to our Head Start Lease, which we received a copy of. And they've agreed to our stated rent amount of \$1,400.00 per month beginning October 1st, 2022. And this lease is until July 31st, 2023. I believe it's been reviewed by our attorney. I think it's pretty standard.

Gary made a motion to approve the Head Start lease. Tom seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

DCS Lease Proposal

Mike said that brings us to the DCS Lease Proposal. Have we heard anything back from DCS?

Meeks said that they want a number from us. They're paying \$10.73 now. And I suppose we wouldn't want to go under what they're paying now.

Mike said right.

Meeks said I didn't know if you would want to raise it. They've been paying 1073 for a while.

Tom said is there any reason theirs is more than \$10 do you know.

Meeks said well you guys just picked out the \$10.00 about two weeks ago.

Mike said that was basically double what they were paying is the reason I think.

Meeks said yeah so. I talked to Laura and I thought Laura, thought one of you guys to talked to Andy Wagner and thought 11 or 12 was a fair amount.

Tom said yeah that's what he was saying, yeah.

Meeks so I didn't know if you guys wanted to go \$11.50, 11, I don't know.

Tom said would we get in trouble for discrimination.

Meeks said what discrimination.

Tom said charging some people more than others for equal treatment.

Meeks said that's not unequal treatment.

Mike said different space.

Meeks said some places are nicer, maybe more windows.

Mike said I wouldn't be opposed to \$11.50.

Gary said I wouldn't either since this has been there fee for several years.

Tom made a motion to approve \$11.50 per square feet on the DCS lease. Gary seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Cancer Services of Randolph County Lease

Mike said okay next item is the Cancer Services of Randolph County lease. This is the one that we negotiated last meeting for 200 square feet at \$10 per square feet for a charge of \$200 a month.

Meeks said and so there's two questions on this lease I did not know the answers to, that you guys needed to let me know. Are you going to charge them a damage deposit? I assumed no, but I was not sure. Next question is the term. How long is the term, and do you want to provide for them a renewal.

Gary said we didn't ask for a term did they.

Meeks said no it was not discussed at all how long. I assume a year. I had a year, then I didn't know, and then I thought we.

Mike said is a year okay.

Stacy said a year, yes.

Mike said and then have renewals.

Stacy said yes that's fine.

Mike said and when do you want to start.

Stacy said Sherrie and I talked, want me to come up.

Mike said sure if you want to. We've got a lot of time.

Stacy said Sherrie and I talked. And by the time we would get letters out to our clients, we thought November 1st.

Mike said okay. Is that okay. Okay November 1st through October 31st of 2023. And you have an option to renew said lease for an additional one year, and then after that, we'll renegotiate.

Stacy said okay.

Mike said and I don't see a reason for a security deposit. Tom.

Tom said we know where she lives.

Mike said Gary.

Gary said no I don't.

Mike said so we'll leave that out.

Stacy said okay.

Mike said and then we'll be ready to sign this at our next meeting.

Meeks said

Mike said pardon.

Meeks said we have until November don't we.

Mike said yes.

Meeks said I'll send it out next week.

Amended EDIT Plan

Mike said next item is our Amended EDIT Plan, which adds the housing resource hub. And while we're on this matter, I do have references, and a video reference from HUB that I thought I would forward to Laura and ask her to get it to you two guys to see what other communities are saying about them. And we are meeting with them on September the 27th, at 5:30 p.m. The Housing Committee is to talk about the next steps. Bob has left. But I think Bob's redevelopment commission is interested and they want to participate in that. Does anybody want to move approval of the amended EDIT plan.

Gary made a motion to approve the amended EDIT plan. Tom seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Mike said our EDIT board meeting is Wednesday at 6:00.

Updated ARPA Plan

Next item is our Updated ARPA Plan. We received a copy of via email. And I think that one adds the repair to the storm damage drain on South Street in Winchester for \$32,620.00. I don't think we do anything with that. Any questions or comments.

Ertel Annual Health event agreement

Mike said and the final thing on the agenda is the Ertel Annual Health event, which Duane has forwarded to us. And that's the Ertel bus is going to be here, and we need to approve that as a health event for the county.

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

Mike said Meeks do you have anything for us.

Meeks said yes. The judge is going to, I went down there today to see if he had the order done. He does not, to prohibit all cell phones from the court house, unless you are there, there's a list, unless you are a Judge, attorney, information officer, case manager, CASA or an employee of the county. Here it is, I'm actually not exactly sure what this order is going to say, I haven't seen it yet. But in essence, that well, for security reasons, he doesn't want cell phones in the court house. I can tell you Delaware County does it, Henry County does it, Wayne County does it. I think Jay County does it. I'd have to ask them. So what Henry County did is they did an ordinance to kind of back up the Judge's order. So, the Judge does and order and it's called the quorum order of protocol, and then, and then the county did an ordinance that says if somebody is recording in the court house, that the bailiff, or actually, Henry County says the bailiff or any of, sheriff of Henry County, sheriff's, yeah, any sheriff's deputy can remove the people. So, the judge is asking for that. I can tell you I have something drafted that looks very similar to Henry County, but I want to see a court order first. And that court order is going to come out this week. So that's kind of something that's going to come up. I'll send this out after I see the court order and things. I think we can follow the Henry county. Because this is a public meeting, you have a right to record in a public meeting. Somebody can be here and record this public meeting on their cell phone. So, what the, by doing that, I think you are taking away some rights, which I don't think is probably appropriate. So, I have an exception to it that I have typed into this thing. It says that you can bring in your electronic device to record a public meeting, but you need to have it on and off. You have to have it off until you come into a public meeting and turn it on, then turn it back off when you leave. So, I know that they have a real problem. They were recording juveniles, out in the court, people have been recording juveniles. That murder trial, they were walking around recording it. I believe somebody was trying to record between the two doors. You can barely see in the Court, when the judge is on the bench between those two doors, I was told they were recording. I know the auditor's office has had people recording. I know the treasurer's office has had. And they have, those places have sensitive, I mean, you have employee

files, you have tax files, you have tax delinquencies. You probably have social security numbers I suppose, all sorts of things. So, it wouldn't be good if somebody recorded somebody's say delinquent tax bill that's sitting on the desk of the Treasurer. So, I do think that there's real reasons to do it. And I think it's disruptive so. It is disruptive. So that's coming. I will send that out. If you guys have any questions, at least I told the judge that you guys would consider it. I'm not sure if you want to do it or not. I think you will have other county offices asking you for that same or ordinance similar to it for their offices. And how I know that is I've been called.

Tom said will this require us to put security people in the court house.

Meeks said well I think you have a bailiff. I mean they could ask them to leave.

Tom said do you think that's adequate or will we.

Meeks said I don't have any idea if that's adequate. I asked the Judge that exact same thing. We'll find out. I guess if you don't, and keep doing it, you are probably being disruptive.

Tom said well we going to get to the point where we are going to take people's cell phones and hold them for them while they're here.

Meeks said no, take them back to your car. That's what the Delaware County does.

Tom said so then you got somebody at the entrance, you've got one entrance, and or you've got one person at every entrance sending them out.

Meeks said I think you just have somebody sitting at the, I don't think that's, I think if you have somebody recording and you ask them to leave, I think that's what happens.

Mike said then if they don't, then you call a bailiff.

Meeks said then yeah, they call a bailiff.

Mike said we, here, we really won't have, now we're open, so cell phones can record us here. They can record each other here.

Meeks said I have read there's several cases and one of them is from, I don't know what the city, there's a Georgia case out there, another case that seems to indicate that you can do that.

Mike said do that or do this.

Meeks said about recording in public buildings.

Mike said I wouldn't think you could help that.

Meeks said just recording in public buildings. It's pretty well established you can't record because the judge doesn't want you to do it.

Tom said is Henry county the only one that prohibited that or do the other counties.

Meeks said oh I can't, you can't walk in, down at Wayne County, you can't walk, you can't walk in with your cell phone. Attorneys can because that's how we operate business. I mean I couldn't do any

scheduling if I didn't have my cell phone. But other than an attorneys, information officers, no one, or employees.

Tom said discriminatory.

Mike said well we're not going to be able to prevent them from doing that. So, what if I come in and say I'm going to a public meeting in Wayne county.

Meeks said I don't think they have any public meetings in Wayne county court house.

Mike said oh okay so they have an offsite, okay.

Meeks said I know Henry is totally separate. It's just the courts. I know Delaware County now is just the courts. But I don't know, I talked to the Jay county guy and they don't have one yet. But I think they're probably.

Mike said so if we emptied the second floor and moved this room downstairs, then we could eliminate it on the third floor.

Meeks said totally. I think you could eliminate it in the Court house now, other than this room.

Mike said that's going to be conflicting.

Meeks said I don't know if that's what you want to do though because you know, is it disruptive, again we have the problem with the social security numbers and other things.

Mike said well I agree. I think we should try to get some control over it.

Meeks said the, one of the council members told me there was, I couldn't find it, was a county in southern Indiana, that had sued because somebody was recording and it showed a delinquent tax bill of somebody else's. And the people, that person had died and didn't pay the bill, and so there was some sort of case. And I have not seen that. I'm going to ask her which county that is so I can call down there. And then the other thing is the weapons ordinance that we need to change. I just haven't, that statute is so hard to follow that I'm having a little trouble with it. So, I will hit that probably the next few

Mike said okay. Any questions of Meeks.

Tom Chalfant – Conduit for fiber

Tom said yeah, have you been able to put any kind of memorandum together for the conduit to the homes.

Meeks said that's way tougher than what it's. It looks like you are buying the right-of-way. So, if you're going to buy that easement, you have to complete appraisals. The EDIT Statute allows you to do, use economic development to do those sorts of things. But that's, what I'm reading is that's money derived from economic development tax. So is it a deal that we bring the money in from, you know.

Tom said well we just guarantee it, so we don't bring it in until, unless we have to.

Meeks said it looks like you're buying it so I know we can pay that money out to the individuals through the economic development part of it. But we would have to receipt that, the money in from New Lisbon. And now we're making the same. We went from not being complicated to being overly complicated.

Tom said well we would, the vendor, we would tell the vendor to pay them directly, and we would guarantee.

Meeks said you're still buying that. I mean if you are going to buy an easement, we need an appraisal to know what it's worth. And you can buy an easement for more than what the sticker price for it. But you have to, you have to threaten litigation. The statute makes you threaten litigation. That's the, so if the vendor's going to pay them directly, that looks like, and we put that as a guarantee, we're, that looks like we're buying it. That's the issue with that. I don't know how we get around it. And I've done a lot of research on that.

Mike said so if the five that haven't signed willingly come and sign, it could be a go then.

Meeks said absolutely. But having to guarantee it without appraisals and knowing what those things are worth, you're buying an easement is what you are doing.

Mike said right. Anything else Tom.

Tom said no.

Mike said Gary do you have anything for us this morning.

Gary said just one thing. I was at the Losantville and Modoc meeting today. Both have received so far, \$2,000,000.00 towards their sewage project.

Mike said from Swift.

Gary said no those haven't come yet.

Mike said I know I saw where Modoc got OCRA money. I didn't see where Losantville did.

Gary said they did.

Mike said they did.

Gary said both have received so far, the same total amount of 2,000,000. There will be more funds coming in October, November, December if they are available.

Gary Girton - Communication connectivity for local fire departments

Mike said that's good news. Anything else. Well the sheriff mentioned this quote for mobile digital radios, which is kind of an ongoing discussion of creating a better connectivity for the local fire departments. The idea there is they could get digital radios in their cars the sheriff, and there were to be a VHS channel open up for the fire departments to use. Would that be exclusively Art.

Art Moystner said anybody that had that frequency would be able to use it, but it would be dedicated for the fire departments.

Mike said yeah so they would, then their radios would be more, receivable and transmittable I guess is the best way to put that.

Art Moystner said they would have one more channel.

Mike said and then with that there was discussion of buying digital pagers for the fire departments. And they provided us a list of how many they need. And it still adds up to 221.

Gary said that's on their, off their insurance.

Mike said well they just provided Chris with the rosters. Farmland has 28, Losantville has 21, Modoc has 12, Lynn has 31, Parker has 24, Ridgeville has 16, Ward has 25, Union City has 21, White River has 26 and Winchester has 17. Which I think that was probably the original number they gave us. So, I don't know where we want to go. I guess, I hate to say that they're all going to need pagers, but that's a lot of pagers for the fire departments in the county. Any thoughts on that Art.

Art Moystner said say that one more time Mike.

Mike said the number 221 for pagers for the fire departments.

Art Moystner said I haven't seen any of their numbers.

Mike said ten fire departments. There's 221 total.

Art Moystner said okay.

Mike said it just seems awful high to me.

Tom said we haven't emailed him that, he hadn't seen it.

Art Moystner said I haven't seen any of the numbers, which departments. I know the majority of them would be volunteers. And you could average, that would be 21 per department.

Mike said okay so that's.

Art Moystner said I don't know how far off that would actually be.

Mike said that's a fair number.

Tom said sounds a little high to me.

Gary said sounds high to me also.

Mike said well and maybe.

Gary said I'm not opposed to helping them, but.

Mike said I guess the question becomes how do we help them then.

Gary said I don't know. There's a couple of them I have, you know, we're discriminating, but they have excess amount of money for that, and others that don't have.

Mike said maybe we could just any number we pick short of what they've asked for would be a random number.

Gary said right.

Mike said and some would get the digital pager and the others would live with the analog pager, VH analog. And I don't know how to arrive at a fair number on that.

Gary said what's the highest number, you said Modoc was 12, what was the highest.

Mike said Lynn was 31.

Gary said 31.

Tom said well Lynn was 27 wasn't it. They've raised that up.

Gary said they raised theirs, because I never seen at a couple of their meetings, there's not that many there.

Mike said you're missing somebody. You're missing the second lieutenant, Unit number 105. He's not on there.

Tom said I guess it's how, how much money you want to spend on this.

Gary said so what are they apiece on that quote.

Mike said well before the project ended, they were a little less than \$800.00 apiece.

Gary said for the digital pagers.

Mike said well I don't know what J&K would charge now.

Gary said I think they are the same.

Mike said so that would be a hundred and what, seventy-six thousand dollars, plus the quote for mobile radios is a little less than sixty.

Gary said has J&K told us what effect that's going to have on the fire if we release that whole channel.

Mike said if they did, I don't recall.

Gary said I haven't heard anything.

Mike said do you know Art.

Art Moystner said say it again Mike.

Mike said if we buy the digital mobiles, and open up that VHS channel for the fire departments, what effect that will have for them.

Art Moystner said for the fire departments. It just gives them an additional channel. I think they have two currently. They have a fire run and fire main I believe. And it gives them a third channel option on scene to be able to communicate. I also think it allows more communications in the departments that do not have seven or eight hundred megahertz radios. It allows them to communicate better with the VHS.

Mike said okay. Well that would be one step in the right direction. That doesn't solve the pager issue, which the pager issue is intermittent. Sometimes they get it, sometimes they don't.

Gary said well it does, if that's going to have a significant benefit on the fire departments by releasing that channel. I've not heard J&K say what they think. Anyway, when you come to the digital pagers, you said 12 and 27 so there's not anyway hardly we could do a percentage of each department.

Mike said well we could just pick a number.

Gary said I think these departments have got to, you know, we've talked about this for a long time, and they keep saying well we've got places we could get some money over the years, I've not heard hardly any of them doing any of it. Now they're coming out to saying well we need these right now.

Mike said I don't think they're saying they need them. I just think they're saying they don't have the connectivity they thought they were going to have.

Gary said they're saying they need it when you talk to them.

Mike said okay. I didn't hear that at.

Gary said I talked to some of them just recent. And so that may not be the consensus, I agree with your comment the other day. I think the pagers from our perspective, is more important that we help fund that than it is radios, because they can do more than. They've got to get some skin in the game on some of this since they've had three or four years. There's grants out there at \$5,000.00 a year per department if they'd apply and get it.

Mike said well if we bought the radios for the sheriff, I think it would improve their communications as well, would they not Art.

Art Moystner said what you're saying that would give them an additional channel.

Mike said no, for you. What would that do for you to go from digital to VHS.

Art Moystner said if we went from VHS to digital to the 700 it would put us all on the same frequency. That way we would not have the cross over, because in the car and the portable, sometimes the transmissions aren't really clear.

Mike said so that would improve your communications as well.

Art Moystner said it would.

Mike said so what if we agreed to buy the sheriff's radios for \$56,173.69 and said we're going to pay for 40% of the pagers. That would be \$70,400.00 at \$800.00 a pager. That would be an investment of about, a little over a \$125,000.00.

Gary said 40% per department.

Mike said yeah. I mean, I just throwed that out. We could do a 30% and that would reduce it.

Tom said so everybody gets the same regardless of their population.

Mike said I don't know how else to do it.

Gary said I don't either.

Mike said I mean we could do it by population if we want to calculate what the population is, what area they serve, and, but they'll tell you that they cross over. So White River just serve White River, Winchester just serve Winchester, or Union, I mean it just, it's complicated and it should be. I don't, I'm not saying they shouldn't do that so. One would say they could cover the entire county if necessary.

Gary said so we're doing just the volunteers. We're not doing Winchester and Union City.

Mike said well they're included in this list. Winchester and Union City is included in this list.

Gary said they are.

Mike said yeah they have the least number I believe. Winchester has 17 and Union City has 21.

Gary said they're paid departments right.

Mike said yeah. And there's probably some cross over in there too. I think Jimmy Tharp is White River and Ridgeville.

Tom said was there any cross over outside of county boundaries, other than the Greene Township.

Mike said that information is not on here.

Gary said I'll move that we go ahead with the sheriff's department and purchase those, and I wish we could get a good number on those. I think from my attending different, all the meetings, it seems to be an inflation back to there. It's not brought out in the meetings that I attend.

Mike said so the sheriff's quote is \$56,173 and you're moving to buy those from where.

Gary said well that I don't know.

Mike said well you could take it from ARPA.

Tom said that's about the only place isn't it.

Mike said well ARPA, EDIT or Windfarm.

Gary said we could take it out of EDIT, but I'd rather not.

Mike said well I'd say we take it out of ARPA if we're going to buy the radios.

Tom said it's a one-time expense, so we can tell them that this, you're on your own. Yeah you put money away to replace these radio's because we don't have money to replace them again.

Gary said right. And they should be able to like I said. What they're saying in these meetings is that they've got access to these grants, if they'd apply for them, and do it properly and on time that they could get this money. And replace some along as they go rather than come up and say well we need 27 pagers.

Mike said so I'm looking at your quote of 52681, is that the last quote Art.

Art Moystner said the one I have yes sir.

Mike said do you think it's still valid.

Gary said I would say yes, from what I talked to J&K.

Mike said okay. Gary says it's valid.

Gary said he said a couple weeks ago, said we're going to shut you off, but he said well maybe.

Mike said well this says prices are firm until August 17th.

Gary said right. I talked to him right at that time, and when he said maybe, I see that there's some negotiations.

Mike said we have a motion. Do I have a second?

Tom seconds.

Mike said we have a motion to buy the mobile digital radios for the sheriff's car total quote of \$56,173.69 to be paid from ARPA funds. And it's been seconded.

All aye votes. Motion carried.

Mike said and we'll just, I think we'll continue to discuss pagers. See where that takes us. The other item I had, I was hoping Mike would be here, but I think Laura sent us all the Windsor highway complaint. Do we have any status on that Joe?

Joe Copeland said no.

Mike said I don't think the weeds go over the bridge but they might. I don't know. I'll reach out to Mike about that too. I think Mike is at conference isn't he.

Joe Copeland said he's leaving tomorrow to.

Mike said okay. I'll say something to him about it. Okay that's all I have.

Citizen Comments

Mike said any citizens here with comments. Well I guess I got one other matter, and that would be Randolph United. I see Jackie here, but Randolph United did hire an interim president I guess, is what they would be called, Dave Lenkensdofer. He will lead that organization until a new president is found.

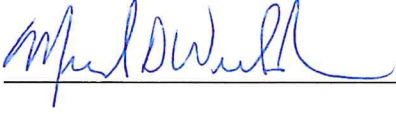
Adjournment

Mike said hearing no comments, I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

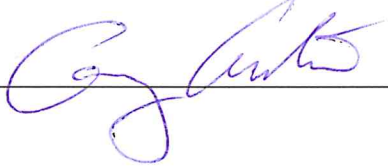
Tom made a motion to adjourn. Gary seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

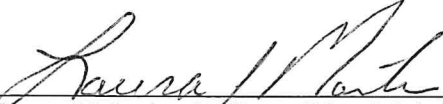
Reviewed and signed this _____ day of _____, 2022.

RANDOLPH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS







ATTEST: 

Laura J Martin, Auditor of Randolph County