

Randolph County Council

October 3, 2023

The Randolph County Council met for its regular meeting at 8:30 AM in the Commissioners and Council Room of the Courthouse with the following members present: Council President David Lenkensdofer, Tom Chalfant, Mike Stine, Tom Kerns, Todd Holaday, Missy Williams and Beverly Fields. Also present was County Auditor Laura J Martin.

Council President David Lenkensdofer presided.

Pledge of Allegiance

Dave said first of all, we would like to honor Jane Grove today. She was designated the Himself Award Winner at the AIC this week. That's the highest honor that the AIC in the state of Indiana can bestow on someone, so we applaud Jane for all her hard work dedication. And we're all proud of you Jane.

Jane Grove said thank you very much.

Commissioner's update – Gary Friend

Comp time payout line for 911 dispatcher's \$30,000.00

Dave said next up will be Gary.

Gary Friend said good morning. Okay, well, I was going to bring up the proclamation, so I don't have to do that. A couple things for the commissioners, one, that we passed the resolution to accept the property from Farmland for the ambulance depot that's coming. Meeks is getting all the final details of it. I seen an email yesterday, that's pretty much done. We renewed our insurance with Jentry Flesher from Thompson Insurance out of Parker. And it was about a 9% increase, all things totaled. Some was a little higher, some was a little lower, but it was a total of about 9% increase. So, some of the things that have come up in the last two weeks is we've been in discussion with Chris Shaneyfelt, our 911 director. And I've asked Laura, and the commissioner agreed and motioned yesterday, to make a line in the budget so that we could put some funds in there, so if we have a situation like we have there in a critical position, that this is the 911 center, is that 24/7 must operate. And to help his people from running out with burnout, Chris is trying to get on top of the manpower issues that the commissioners will look at paying down some comp time every two weeks when it comes before us, instead of changing a county-wide policy just to handle this. Well, to do that, we need to put some funding in a line. We're thinking that \$30,000.00 from County General into that line would be sufficient to take care of this. It wouldn't be, in every department that would come up wanting to pay down comp time, would get a favorable vote because we would look and see how critical it is to the mission of the

county. Even though everybody's positions are very critical, we know that, a PSAP center must operate. So, that's something we'd like for the council to go ahead and put into the budget. Then, we've been in discussion with Mayor McCoy for the animal control contract for Randolph County. It's going to go up from \$45,000 to \$65,000. And that's a 3-year contract. Now, what's going on in that is they're also building new kennels there to help do this. It looks like it's a 30% increase, and it is around a 30% increase, but it's also the cost of doing businesses up everywhere. And it's a no-kill shelter. And any time an animal leaves that shelter, it has to be neutered and spayed. When they come in, we have to have a veterinarian or the shelter has to do it. So, we would like for the council to do an additional appropriation in the commissioner's budget to cover that, and then we'll have it in our budget next year. This is a locked in 3-year contract and that's telling it about the way it is mayor?

Mayor McCoy said yeah, I mean we've got to hit on and I don't have that actual number as far as the spay and neuter, but that was something that was required by the state. So, if we take an animal in now, we're required that they have all their shots, they're spayed and neutered, before they're adopted. So, that actually increases the cost in taking an animal in. And then every day we take an animal in, the average cost to house an animal boarded is \$15.00 a day. And them animals can be there anywhere between 30 to 60 days, sometimes up to 6 months. And we're taking in the number 57 animals from the county last year Gary?

Gary Friend said that's the number, yeah, that you gave me.

Mayor McCoy said so, and, in comparison to Winchester, the bulk of our business, if you want to call it is animals from the county. Also, addressing some issues Art had concerning going out into the county, yes, we will assist with vicious animals, things like that. We're not going to be called and somebody says hey, there's a dog running down 200 South, can you go get it. Dogs run in the country. Farmers own dogs. They don't want their dogs being picked up. If the dog's causing a problem like killing livestock or bit somebody, we'll be, you know, we'll be on the scene for that.

Dave said, Gary, is this for the whole county, including cities and towns?

Gary Friend said this does not include the cities. The cities, and the mayor is going to work out where the cities can do their own contracts with the Winchester Animal Shelter for them to provide service for them. Each city and town, has in their levy, the ability to put together their own animal control. So, it's not really, we're dealing with the county, not the cities and towns.

Dave said I know years ago, it used to be county did the contract for the whole county.

Gary Friend said right. If we were to do that, it's going to be significantly a lot more money for us, and for the county portion of it. And I actually believe that the cities and towns, if the county was to own that contract for everything, then they would be required to at least provide some income to Randolph County to take them from doing it. So, I think we need to let it start where it is, and then, just like the mayor was saying about you know, vicious dogs, if there're operational issues, we will address it at the commissioners' meeting when necessary.

Dave said so it's not a true county contract, just for residents in the county?

Gary Friend said residents in the county. Yeah, it doesn't cover the cities and towns.

Mayor McCoy said and what we'll do, as far as the cities and towns go, we'll start accumulating numbers like just say Lynn, Farmland, we will discuss with them, maybe start out with a small number and say hey, this is what we will do to provide services, and then probably, maybe enter into a year contract with them, and then evaluate it after a year. Say, hey, we picked up 30 dogs from wherever, that's going to have to increase. But we don't know what those true numbers are until we actually go looking at it that way.

Tom Chalfant said is it state statute that no kill, I mean who decides if an animal can even be euthanized?

Gary Friend said I don't know. I've never heard that no kill is a state statute. I think it's a humane feeling, empathy type of issue.

Tom Chalfant said that's 57 animals, \$65,000.00, yeah, we've got to make some hard choices.

Gary Friend said uh huh. Yeah, the Winchester shelter is a no kill shelter, and that's who we're choosing to do business with. So, we really can't tell them to be a kill shelter, but I don't know that there's a statute, Tom. And yeah, it's, depends on who you talk to whether you know, euthanizing is acceptable or not. But this particular contract, it's a no kill. Okay, and moving on, and Parker is here and they're further down your agenda, and if you want to bring him up and want to talk about it, that's fine as well too, Mr. Greer. But, Parker has a, two parks they're going to do. One is downtown on Main and Washington on a bare lot that they're building on to. And then one would be east of the ball diamond, behind Jerry's Dairy Freeze. There's a set of flags going deeper, there's a green space to build a family pavilion back there. The whole project cost, I believe is like \$151,000.00. We're got right at 100,000. They've come to the county to see if we could help them finish this project. And the commissioners decided yesterday, that we would like to request the council to go along with us to finish that project with then for \$51,500.00 out of the renewable energy funding. We've already voted to do it.

Tom Chalfant said why, were the EDIT funds discussed? To me, that seems a much more appropriate use of EDIT funds.

Gary Friend said Edit funds was discussed a little bit, but it didn't really get any traction with the other commissioners. And I didn't have a problem with going with windfarm funding or renewable energy. But it could go either way, that's correct.

Tom Chalfant said well we, I mean, we raise another \$50,000, everybody's going to want another \$50,000 out of windfarm and our roads and bridges go lacking.

Gary Friend said right. I understand all that argument. But I, kind of looked at it a little bit that can help the cities and towns, we're all, it's community events, it's public infrastructure.

Tom Chalfant said but every taxing, we give money to school, I've been through this before, how are we ever going to, you keep coming and wanting more and more money, because of the cost of things, the state, in their wisdom has allowed us to raise one to five million for volunteer firemen. They're going to be coming. You know, this \$300,000.00 ambulance, who's paying, what are funds for that?

Gary Friend said for the ambulance depot?

Tom Chalfant said yeah.

Gary Friend said ARPA is what we're looking at.

Tom Chalfant said ARPA. Yeah, it just.

Dave said I'm sort of like Tom in a way. Our roads and bridges and drainage, the original intent of renewable energy was funds were for those items.

Gary Friend said it was to help with those items, but it wasn't a 100% exclusive, because we did start talking about working with our cities and towns and our communities to help them a little bit. And I get it. We're not neglecting our roads and bridges. I think we're doing more roads and bridges now than we ever have. So, we are doing our roads and bridges. We really are.

Tom Chalfant said I've had a lot of complaints about the new roads, the new asphalt. I've had a lot of complaints about the new asphalt being put down.

Gary Friend said well I addressed that yesterday. And I don't disagree. There's a learning curve going on, and there's also people need to do it correctly type of thing too. So, that's part of learning curve. But I addressed it yesterday. But, the fact that we are not doing more roads and bridges, we are doing more roads and bridges I think, that we've done in quite some time. So, I mean, it's going to be a decision of whether the council wants to help Parker do these two-part projects or not. The commissioners would like to use the Windfarm funding. That's where the vote went yesterday. We'll see where it goes.

Tom Kerns said I struggle with park projects when we do infrastructure for housing in Union City, and we give it to them as a loan, and then we're wanting to give money as a park project, where housing infrastructure, to me, even though, quality of life is important.

Gary Friend said it is. I think it's some of the difference myself, my personal self on housing infrastructure is, the infrastructure goes in and the developers are actually going to make profits on all of this. So, down the line, it helps developers build houses for money. Parks doesn't help anybody make money. Parks just helps the community have a place to enjoy life. So, I don't know exactly the details, because I didn't make that decision on there I don't think. I don't think the council is involved in that on, it was the EDIT loan wasn't it?

Tom Kerns said was that EDIT or was that Windfarm?

Laura said I can't remember.

Gary Friend said but anyway.

Tom Kerns said maybe renewable energy but.

Gary Friend said yeah. And then we put some funding through in renewable energy to the one that's going out on Huntsville, as well, but we sent it by way of Winchester to use.

Tom Kerns said but the county builds income off that too, it's increasing our access.

Gary Friend said yeah, taxable income, once it comes out of the TIF yeah, we'll get taxable income. It's hard to deal with, 20 years down the road, we will. But I guess that's, it's just my opinion. I don't disrespect you gentlemen, but it's just my opinion, if the commissioners want to help them, \$51,500.00 out of Windfarm, the councils got to vote on it.

Missy said one thing about Parker though is they have done their own housing addition. I know it's privately done. But, Parker did invest some money in the infrastructure in there, so they've stepped forward and done that, and not come and asked for any loans from the county government. And there's not a lot of space within the boundaries of Parker City for kids to go and play, or families to stay and not have to go outside to have a family picnic or a gathering.

Gary Friend said and they're putting a 100,000, 2/3rds, in it.

Missy said right.

Gary Friend said but that's that. Anything else from the council for me?

Dave said anything else for Gary? Alright.

Gary Friend said it's my pleasure. Thank you.

Dave said alright. Thanks for coming in here.

David Daly – New investigator appointment

Dave said Dave Daly, come on up.

David Daly said morning everyone. I'm here for like, I think this is the second time this year. I think I was here in January for the same, kind of sort of the same reason. My chief investigator, I have two investigators, my chief investigator, Kelly Smithson is retiring effective this Friday. Friday is his last day. So, shout out if anybody wants to come by and say goodbye to Kelly, Friday is going to be his last day. He's been with me for 8 ½ years. He started in 2015. And Kelly is my chief investigator, and his primary job and job duties are those of an investigator to receive police reports, to review them, to make some preliminary recommendations on filing charges, to prepare paperwork, to acquire more information from law enforcement agencies when it's requested by the prosecutors to fill in gaps. I mean, he talks to people, he runs my pre-

trial diversion programs. Kelly does a lot. And he's retiring this Friday. So, I've got a successor in mind, but Indiana Code Title 33, Article 39, Chapter 4 specifically talks about the appointment of investigators. And the reading of that section of the code says the prosecuting attorney may appoint an investigator with the approval of the county council. So, that's why I'm here, just to get your authorization and your okay. The person that I'd like to hire, his name is Joe Younts. Joe, up until now has been a school resource officer. For many years, he was a deputy sheriff with the Randolph County Sheriff's Department. Joe has worked with me on some red ribbon week programs. And you may recall, I think it was about 8 years ago he was a candidate for the position of mayor in Winchester, in the election was Shaun Byrum. So, Joe is a pretty good guy. I think he'd be a very good fit with the office. And he's got some law enforcement background. An investigator is a law enforcement officer according to statute. So, it's a pretty important position for my office. So, I'm just here asking you all if you would please just give the okay and the authorization and the approval for me to hire Joe Younts.

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

Randolph County Solid Waste Budget Ordinance 2023-19 Adoption

Dave said next item we have on our agenda is for the Randolph County Solid Waste. I don't see anybody there, other than myself and Gary, to adopt their budget for 24. So, I would entertain a motion to do that. Their adopted budget is \$402,130.00. Entertain a motion to adopt.

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

Bev said I would move that the rules be suspended and have the 2nd and 3rd reading by title only, and adopted the same day for 2023-19.

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

Bev said I move that the council adopt Ordinance 2023-19. Missy seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Cheryl Prescott – Tourism financial request

Dave said okay Cheryl, Scottie, would you like to come up?

Cheryl Prescott said I was asked to be here today, but before we get started on the other, I wanted to ask about the solar eclipse. We have been doing a lot of advertisement and a lot of, we're selling some tee-shirts and stuff for the solar eclipse. It's going to be a huge event April the 8th of 2024. And with that, we've also applied for a grant, which we have, I think that we've got awarded that grant, but we don't have the money in our account yet. But I would like to know if we could put a separate line item in our budget right now for just solar eclipse. We have generated the money ourselves, selling tee-shirts, and we've got, but we would like to be able to use that money for just in this line item with the solar eclipse, because we would like to really advertise that and keep the momentum going. We've met every month for the last several

months now. So, I think it's going to be, they've really worked really hard for this event for next year. And to continue to do that, we've raised the money, so I would like your permission to be able, I think we've got about 4,000 in the eclipse that we've sold, but we're spending out of our budget and our budget is not, it's almost empty on that budget line item. So, can we add a solar eclipse line item to our budget and then be able to use that money just for solar eclipse, is what I'm asking.

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

Cheryl Prescott said and we'll be allowed to use that money just for solar eclipse?

Dave said correct.

Cheryl Prescott said thank you. And the next, I was asked to be here because you guys had questions for me. So, I'm not for sure.

Missy said my question is, it says tourism financial request. Is this a request from tourism, or is this a request from Randolph County United?

Dan Baker said so, this would have to be a request from tourism, because this is a tourism item, right. So, Randolph County United, like I said last time, can't request tourism money, or innkeepers' tax money, so it's the tourism requesting those funds to fulfill the contract between tourism and Randolph County United, as we spoke about last time.

Missy said well one of the sessions that I sat in at the AIC meeting was for tourism. And it was a small group, so we really got to ask a lot of questions. So, I asked afterwards, can innkeepers' tax be transferred to another entity. And I've got that line so, I can tell you so you can make some phone calls. They said no. And in fact, Claudia Thornburg probably isn't here, because she's down working hard, but she, we both went into that, just had some, she didn't care about that. We went up to, she went up to ask a couple other questions about some things. So, I'm not sure it legally can be done.

Dan Baker said well last time we also talked about a State Statute, and Meeks, I don't know if you were able to answer this, but according to State Statute, you are authorized to hire an organization or provide for that organization to provide services. So, I don't have that statute on me. I wish I would have, but I didn't know that question was going to come up. But, looking at the State Statute closer, there is authorization to hire, tourism has that ability to contract with other organizations for services, right, one of those services that we offer or helping out with the tourism. And then everything in the county.

Missy said in the original charter, which I've read a couple times, I have an access to it, that charter with the economic development, you know, with EDIT money being used, has at the top, it was in 1983. I'm sure you guys have all read that. I mean, I'm sure you have. It says that this branch is to be organized and created and unified with tourism on the left-hand side, Randolph Economic Development on the right-hand side, as a partnership. So, when did that partnership

divide. And so, money that was appropriated, I was under the assumption by reading that, and I've asked an old person who was on the Economic Development board way back when, their understanding, and they explained, it could have changed. But, I've never seen a second charter draft that said that you were separate, and that tourism had to pay to be part of.

Dan Baker said it's not paying to be a part of RCU, right? It's paying for the services that the executive director provides, because the executive director is an RCU employee, right, and the convention bureau technically is a d/b/a of the Randolph County community and economic develop foundation, which was the original foundation that was set up. So, that convention bureau was set up as a d/b/a underneath that organization, which now RCU is also a d/b/a of that same organization. It's my understanding the tourism commission was actually set up in 2008, 2009 timeframe. So, I don't have all the details between 1983 and 2008, 2009, but I can provide the information when the tourism was set up. So, there's a lot of things that I've forwarded, and I don't mean to speak for tourism, but the questions are coming to me. So, this is one of those peeling back the layers. What does the State Statute say the tourism can do? What are the issues that we've seen over the last 10 to 20 years? And how do we move forward as united front, and no pun intended for Randolph County United, but how do we move forward with a united front? So, I can tell you that shifting from the Economic Development side of things, a lot of the organizations that I have worked with have loved the fact that we are showing a united front for our Chamber, our Economic Development, and our Tourism. I'm working on projects right now that I can't share all the details, but I have worked on the last 11 months, 4 or 5 projects that total upwards of 600 to 800 million dollars. And this is a lot of projects that are coming across. And every single time, when I bring up what we are doing together as a community, their eyes light up. So, if I can continue to showcase that we are united front, that we're together as community, and that we're working together between everybody, then that allows us to improve, not just our Economic Development, but our businesses, our tourism, everything in this county. We also work with all five school districts, so, there's a huge, if you don't mind, I'm going to share with you, something that I've been meaning to share with you for a couple months now. So, I keep getting asked, what does Randolph County United do. So, I put together a really high level, this is very high level, of the things that we do at Randolph County United to include Economic Development, the Chamber and the Tourism piece of it. So, as you can imagine, I have five staff, maybe, four or five staff members that are working their butts off for this county. I, personally took this job because I want to work my butt off for this county. And what I have found is that we need to continue to try to come together to make this happen. So, the first page, you will see kind of the standard stuff, and the Chamber, the Economic Development, Tourism, the second page, you'll see the cultivated community initiatives that we have put forward with the community foundation, and utilizing Ball State. So, for me, the request for the 12,000 or \$15,000.00 is to shore up my budget, which right now, I have a shortfall. We, in 2023, they decided that we're actually \$30,000.00 in the negative. That includes if we were to get this. So, without the \$15,000.00, we're actually going to be 45. We're being \$45,000.00 in the negative, so I'm trying to shore up that budget, and to insure, that we can move forward.

Tom Chalfant said well how did that shortfall occur?

Dan Baker said so, that occurred by some of the expenses that we have, right, because we pay, out of pocket, we actually gave money to the speedway. We gave money to the cultivating

communities to get that moving forward, and we provide other funds. So, we do advertising, right, I have the budget with me, but. So, we have advertising, we do school incentives, we help the schools out. We do have professional fees. Some of the memberships that you see on here, to be a part of these regional economic development boards, there're fees associated with that. There're fees associated with being on some of the tourism stuff, which is mainly covered by the Tourism Innkeepers' tax. And the, in the chamber as well. So, there's a, to answer that question, it's a multifaceted thing. So, I, when I came on board, one of my first things, I'm a business owner myself, one of my first things, how do I decrease the cost and increase the services? So, how do I take a look at what we're paying for, basic things, marketing, computers, software programs, things like that, and how do I get those, one is for free, or how do I get a grant to offset that cost? Right now, to date, I've saved us around \$15,000.00. Now, I'm trying to continue to lower that cost, but I still have a shortfall that I've got to shore up. So, there, as we move forward, there're plans in place to try to decrease that cost even more. But that's not going to happen overnight.

Tom Chalfant said are you going to try to help shore that up by maybe not hiring an office manager?

Dan Baker said well I have to have an office manager, because there's no way that I can continue to do it. Right now, I'm the one running our accounting, our bookkeeping, things like that.

Tom Chalfant said that was my point. You're one of the most qualified people we've had in this position, and I don't think it's any secret, the last person couldn't balance a checkbook is what you told me, so, I think you're very capable of running that office. And that job can be absorbed in your duties, and that's where I was hoping you could help shore up the tourism, because, you've heard, the county's, we've got a lot of people with a lot of needs, as well as you. So, I was just hoping you could absorb that position and help shore up the tourism budget through that. But, I didn't realize all these other monies have been spent, apparently, over the budgets that you know, they were approved.

Dan Baker said so, the, we haven't spent any over the budget, right, so, per, per the budget, are we going to cut into our cash reserves, and this was approved budget, we're cutting in our cash reserves by \$30,000.00, right. I haven't spent over what I have been approved to spend.

Tom Chalfant said well I didn't understand the shortfall, where the shortfall came from.

Dan Baker said the shortfall I'm mentioning is that 30,000 cutting into our cash reserves, right, so that's the shortfall. The way they did it, it was a zero-sum budget, right, so, it wasn't showing.

Tom Chalfant said and I guess, why does the Economic Development need a cash reserve, I guess, I mean, because we pay you every year out of the, you know, EDIT tax for whatever you operate on, so, I didn't know why you'd need a cash reserve I guess.

Dan Baker said to, so to continue to do the work that we've been asked to do, we also will be getting in front of the commissioners on the EDIT piece of it, next month. So, that's a discussion

we'll have with the commissioners next month, because we have, just like everybody else, we have inflation cost, right, everything is increasing. So, the, sorry Tom, can you ask me that question one more time?

Tom Chalfant said well I guess I was just, I mean why do you need, how much cash reserve do you intend to keep, or how much, when you got done with the budget this year, how much did you hope to have in reserve?

Dan Baker said so, when I get done with the budget, I don't have that in front of my finance committee. So, there's a lot of things that I'm trying to utilize with any of the cash that we do have, right. So, you've mentioned last time, the property that we have over in Union City. There are things in works for that property in terms of economic development. So, we can use that cash that we do have to help make sure that surveys do other things to prepare that property. So, there are things that I'm thinking about on how to use anything that we do have extra, but like any operation in non-profit business, you can't run a 30,000 negative every year, year on year, because then you just won't have it. So, I'm trying to shore that up. And there's tons of ways we can talk about how to do that.

Missy said Dan, I think you do a great job, and I love what is happening over there. My whole thing on this is tourism only has so much money to bring in, so, right now, the economic, the EDIT board, the EDIT funding is giving \$28,387.92 to tourism. They're sending that straight over to your office. That's going over there. Then, the county pays all of the claims that Scottie turns in. So, I've seen exactly what, and I knew many of the good things that she's doing. So, her salary is around 22,000 because you're now half-time, you are part-time. So, you're getting a \$6,000.00 bump, you're getting \$6,000.00 of tourism money from the EDIT already, because they're sending you over, every month, they send you \$2,365.66 to tourism, it goes in yours. They send you \$18,467.66. That's \$221,611.92. Then tourism kicks in, in name for them, \$28,387.92. Her salary is 22,000. She doesn't get, do you get a phone siphon? No. And you get mileage, is that correct?

Scottie Harvey said out of tourism budget. My wage comes out of tourism budget.

Missy said okay. That's why I saw that on there. I wondered about that. Thank you for that clarification. So, that's \$6,387.92 that you are getting, this excess that the EDIT board is putting in there. My concern is I'd look at this, and I was aware obviously, because I watched Scottie operate for three years, and if she could, if tourism did not assist, and it's all cities and towns, I'm not just picking, I'm not just saying they have no money, because I'm sure they have money. They have plenty of money, I'm sure, but Saratoga, Farmland, Parker, for events. The speedway was, tourism paid a lot of that. I mean, 50,000 for the, their portion to make sure that sign got put up, different things, dinners, meals, I mean, I'll pass this around if anybody wants to see it. But it is amazing. Union City, the community Christmas billboards promoting community Christmas, and other things within our county. And so, I look through this and I say so, where are you going to cut this? I mean, don't answer, because I don't know. But, you've got to cut this by a substantial amount. And because of the special projects this year that we're, only going to happen this year, with the eclipse, that doesn't happen very often, obviously. And with this opportunity to really showcase Randolph County with the Winchester Speedway, but it was all

of Randolph County, I mean even when they put the Farmland pictures in there and they really weren't, it was kind of out of context. But, so, I want to go through here, and I was going through here and looking and saying what are you going to cut that you're going to still be, who are you going to say no to? Are we billboards, are you knowing all small cities that too bad, you want to have a little festival, do it yourself. I mean, I don't know. I look through here and say wow, what are you going to cut? Help with, you know, help with the and you guys did a great job. Jackie did a great job in getting a grant from Reid Hospital on that one too. But, I just don't know where you're going to cut this. And from my, from me thinking back, an earlier person requested money to do this very same thing, and someone asked is this going to be an every-year deal. And the answer was no, one time, this is it. I've heard, you mentioned 15,000 today. I thought it was only 12, 5, 12,500. So, what, is it 15 that you're asking for?

Dan Baker said so, I think last time Cheryl had asked for 15 just for over time.

Missy said no, you said 12,5 last time.

Cheryl Prescott said 12,5 was what they needed in, but I was just putting the 15 out there for if we had overtime, because we don't have no, at this point, we don't have any money for overtime that I'm aware of.

Dan Baker said so, I would like to speak to predecessors and kind of that old, the other things that happened in the past. I wasn't here in the past. I'm looking for the future. I'm trying to move us forward to the future. I understand that those things may have been asked to this council before, but we are trying to move forward. And we're trying to let the past be the past. And how are we going to start operating this moving forward. Are we going to continue to let the onion rot or are we going to peel back those layers and let it move forward? That's my question.

Missy said I guess I don't look at it like that. I'm looking at it strictly on as a money basis.

Dan Baker said I look at it as, sorry.

Missy said I don't know how she's going, and you're going to have to eliminate something from tourism. Do you agree with that?

Cheryl Prescott said uh huh.

Dave said one question I'd like to ask either one, how did this all start about? Did Randolph County United go to Tourism, or did Tourism go to Randolph County United asking for the money?

Dan Baker said I don't know that answer.

Cheryl Prescott said I think that was before your time. They come to the tourism board.

Dave said somebody from Randolph County United?

Meeks said there's been a contract between the tourism board and REDC since I started, 15 years.

Missy said so does it say they get a portion of Innkeepers' tax in that?

Dave said somebody came and asked for the \$12,500.

Meeks said there's always been a contract with the tourism and the Economic Development.

Missy said simple, we just got to go by that.

Meeks said we did, that was what the contract said.

Cheryl Prescott said I have the contract that we agreed to at that time.

Meeks said I mean, it is a little bit different, from the original one.

Dave said well my point is, that's not the question. We got by-passed here as county council. We make the final decision, and we should have been brought in day one. Whoever it was from Randolph County United that came to tourism.

Cheryl Prescott said that was the president at the time.

Scottie Harvey said Steve James?

Cheryl Prescott said no. Scott Williams came to the tourism board, and asked for this contract. And it took six months back and forth. So, we finally agreed.

Missy said so, you have a contract that's signed by Randolph County Tourism?

Cheryl Prescott said yes. And it's just a one-year contract.

Missy said for 2024?

Cheryl Prescott said no, for 2023. We knew that it had to come here first. It's for 2023.

Dan Baker said so, the only thing I can speak to that is, coming back to my original comment is RCU is not the one to come to the county council officially and say hey, can we have these funds, that is really a tourism commission to look for that appropriation of those funds. I agree that there should be a conversation and you should be in it.

Dave said my point is Randolph County United sidestepped the county council of Randolph County.

Dan Baker said I don't know if I see it that way. I respect your opinion.

Dave said that's the way I look at it, because now we've got to find \$12,500.00 that tourism is going to have to cut because you want it to shore up your side. So, we're sort of caught in the middle.

Tom Kerns said it is EDIT dollars that you receive for tourism, you're using for your budget, and then asking for additional money, so it's like you're asking for additional tax dollars to shore up your budget, and not using the money that was given for EDIT dollars for the tourism salaries and the tourism.

Dan Baker said I mentioned last time that we have used that. But we were also asked to participate in the speedway project. My staff also participated, all the staff participated in the speedway project, which focuses on tourism. So, we have more than blown that out of the water, that \$28,000.00 a year. We can continue to operate and do everything that we're doing with this type of budget, which I'm trying to clean up. So, there will be a request for assistance, because of the services that we are providing. So, I completely understand. And Dave, to your point, I do agree that there should have been a communication. I was just giving the approach that I saw.

Dave said there has to be.

Meeks said well I can tell you I.C. Code 69184C says that expenditures under this subject may include but are not limited to any promotional activities. It then goes on to say on 69186A6 that you can give it to any Indiana not-for-profit for tourism activities. So, legally you can use those funds for that. And tourism commission got set up in 08, right at the end of 08.

Tom Chalfant said was that when the Innkeepers' tax was created?

Meeks said that was right, I think that was right before I started.

Cheryl Prescott said the Innkeepers' tax, we started collecting tax in 2008.

Meeks said yeah, so you would have. And I will tell you from the start there has always been some sort of agreement, whether it was REDC before it was the Randolph County Community Economic Development corporation or the tourism commission before that.

Missy said that tourism would pay them?

Meeks said tourism would pay them something to support their activities.

Missy said and have they paid them?

Meeks said I would assume. I don't get involved in the paying part of it. But you're always under contract.

Scottie Harvey said I'm clueless about that.

Meeks said yeah, I would assume, yes, the tourism tax was used to pay that.

Missy said well I sure can't find that on here anywhere.

Meeks said well that was the only legal means that the tourism commission could have paid. They didn't have any other funds.

Missy said I don't think they've ever paid RCU or Randolph County Economic Development.

Meeks said there's always been a contract.

Missy said there's been a contract, but it's never specified payment, I don't think.

Cheryl Prescott said I could tell you when it was set up in the beginning. There wasn't any money, so in order for that to be, in order for us to accumulate money into be able to do some projects, it was in our agreement in 2008, and I know this for a fact, that there was no tourism, tourism was not allowed in the initial agreement to be used for salaries. That had to come out, when it was set up in the beginning. And I think since then, there has been an amendment.

Meeks said that was never in writing. That was an understanding people had, and I had told people at that time, that that was a bad idea.

Cheryl Prescott said just an understanding.

Meeks said and that he should be using it to support, because you have to justify how you use that tax. That's easy to justify how you use that tax for the salaries. But they should have been supporting the salary and then using Economic Development for economic, you know, it should have been vice versa.

Cheryl Prescott said gotcha.

Dave said but their budget does that.

Meeks said well now it does. It didn't at the beginning. I'm just saying.

Cheryl Prescott said so I was talking about the beginning because we didn't have any money.

Laura said and Missy, the county, I'm sure that's a county ledger you have.

Missy said it is.

Laura said we took over tourism's bookkeeping like 2018, 2019.

Meeks said so it wouldn't have reflected that.

Laura said so, anything prior to that we wouldn't have record of in the county, of the county records, yeah.

Missy said yeah, uh huh. This is last years. Your department ran it for me. Well it's through you know, it's current, it's to 2023, yeah.

Laura said I just didn't know how far back you had, and I don't know when all this took place, but I just know we took over like 2018, 2019.

Dave said I do know the cash taken in by tourism or innkeepers' tax every year just covers your budget, and that's all. I mean, there's nothing else available.

Missy said and not all counties approved to charge innkeeper's tax. I didn't realize that. Decatur, they don't, so they're, some of those departments, some of those counties really struggle because they voted no, we're not going to put innkeepers' tax on our hotel because they may go 6 miles up the road because it's a cheaper rate because of that. That sure helps us.

Dave said I do know right now Daniel, you have about \$122,000 in your balance.

Dan Baker said it's going to be lower than that because of the additional appropriations that we've done for other projects.

Dave said yeah, that's as of 8/31. So, I don't know what you've done after that. And then capital improvements, about \$65,000, which you'd have about \$188,000 at your discretion to use.

Dan Baker said so that's back, sorry, that's going back to what I was talking to Tom about, trying, sight surveys and other things are not cheap, so we're trying to utilize those.

Dave said right.

Tom Chalfant said that'll come back to you when it's sold.

Dan Baker said so, depending on if we sell it at fair market value, we'll have to have that discussion.

Tom Chalfant said do you have to have three appraisals or something on that?

Dan Baker said yeah.

Dave said so what is the county council's wishes here?

Missy said if she has a contract in her hand, that you say is for 2023, and the tourism board signed that, unfortunately, tourism, you're not going to have much money the remainder of the year at all.

Cheryl Prescott said I actually signed the contract because we voted on it at our meeting. It wasn't something that I just did on a whim.

Tom Kerns said but it wasn't put in your budget that was turned over to us. And that's why we were saying we got by-passed because it was never put in the budget.

Cheryl Prescott said I didn't, sorry.

Tom Kerns said that's why we were all lost.

Cheryl Prescott said but I mean, as a tourism president, it's my job to do, to sign an agreement that they voted on, I'm just saying I just didn't do this on a whim.

Dave said but one step back from you Cheryl, is RCU should have come to us, saying we're wanting to negotiate with tourism and that's before Daniel.

Cheryl Prescott said gotcha.

Dave said so, entertain, I guess we'll have to do a motion here and approve based on the contract for one year only.

Tom Chalfant said well this is for last year.

Dave said for 2023. It's for this year.

Tom Kerns said how's that work since we have to approve, and I'm just looking for the future, if this happens again.

Meeks said well in the contract it's going to say subject to the appropriation of the county council.

Tom Kerns said because we have to approve their budget. So, I mean, until this is approved in their budget.

Meeks said so, a place in the contract subject to approval of the county council would fix everything. And most of those contracts say that. I don't know why this one doesn't.

Tom Kerns said that was the question because can they even enter in a contract without that.

Meeks said it needs to be subject to an appropriation.

Tom Kerns said with the appropriation.

Tom Kerns said just to clean things up.

Meeks said and then we wouldn't have any question.

Dave said so is there anything we need to vote on? I mean the contract is already.

Meeks said well I think you vote on the appropriation.

Laura said well we have to do an appropriation. We haven't done that yet. It has to be advertised, and then it'll come back to be voted on.

Meeks said then you approve, you tell Laura to advertise it. Approve Laura to advertise it.

Laura said yeah, we haven't done an appropriation because you guys haven't agreed to an appropriation yet.

Tom said and with the appropriation, we would probably have to see an amended budget to see how it affects the budget?

Laura said well there's enough cash to cover the appropriation at this point. It's next year's budget that might be short.

Cheryl Prescott said so you would just take it out of the cash?

Laura said you have enough cash to cover what are we doing?

Tom Kerns said \$12,500 is the contract, correct?

Cheryl Prescott said \$12,500 is the contract.

Tom Kerns said I'm just looking at, we approved a budget that's not sustainable now.

Laura said correct.

Tom Kerns said and that's why I thought we should see a new budget.

Laura said based off of the average of collection for this year, next year's budget is not sustainable.

Cheryl Prescott said so, can you take that money out of the money that's not in the budget, the unappropriated money at this, at this time?

Laura said yes. We have enough, yes, we have enough of unappropriated money right now to take this.

Cheryl Prescott said and that's where you're talking about?

Laura said yes. Yeah, we would take this from that now.

Cheryl Prescott said gotcha.

Laura said and then we'll just kind of monitor next years. We may have to amend your budget and lower something. It depends on what's collected, because you're not going to have a big cash reserve next year.

Cheryl Prescott said okay.

Laura said you're going to have just what you collect. You've always had a cash reserve.

Cheryl Prescott said right.

Laura said but we're spending that this year because you put the \$50,000 to the race track.

Cheryl Prescott said yeah, we've done a lot of things for the whole county, even in Union City, we do a lot. And I could bring you guys a list of all the things that the tourism has done.

Missy said I think I've got a list. You can pass it around.

Cheryl Prescott said it's amazing what, how much revenue we've brought to every aspect of this county.

Dave said and the big projects you guys have done, you know, with the speedway and the little terrace out here, and you'll not be able to do those.

Laura said just because you don't have the cash reserve that you've had in the past.

Cheryl Prescott said right, and so we've got to get that built back up. I understand that. But we've done a lot of big projects, a lot of signage and things that just to get people to Randolph County, which I think it's a big deal.

Missy said but you are using innkeepers' tax to do that. Right?

Laura said well that's the cash reserve. That's the only money they have, is innkeepers' tax.

Tom Kerns said that's just why we are so hesitant because it's going to limit what you can do in the future.

Cheryl Prescott said right. So, this is a one-year contract, so we have to negotiate this contract every year I take it?

Dave said yeah, that's just for 2023.

Cheryl Prescott said gotcha.

Missy said but if you continue to give that amount of money to RCU each year, you're going to be strapped.

Cheryl Prescott said gotcha.

Bev said it would be in your best interest to have a contract on an annual basis until you could sustain yourself, I would think.

Cheryl Prescott said okay.

Dave said okay, Laura, would you prepare an additional appropriation.

Laura said for \$12,500?

Dave said yeah.

Laura said okay. We'll have that at your next meeting.

Dave said alright. Anything else for tourism or Dan?

Missy said I just think you both do a great job, because there are some counties that don't have those two groupings. And you don't see a lot of things that happen. And those festivals and some of the little things, Scottie, I know you worked really hard at that, how many people did you have out at the racetrack just watching that, what wasn't a sign at the time, that pulls people. Bill Armour will be back next weekend. And he was telling me the last count was there were 6 million 700 some odd thousand views on that, on that show, a documentary right now. So, how much better can you get. And if you tally up what was spent on that.

Dave said great investment.

Missy said great investment.

Cheryl Prescott said I think with the people that come to the racetrack, I think there was, last year, that's not this year, there was well over 20,000, and the average person that spends, I can't tell you off the top of my head, I could a few months ago.

Dan Baker said it's about a \$175.00 a day.

Cheryl Prescott said it's well over \$2,000,000.00 that it brings into this county per year, the racetrack. And so, that's a big investment that we did, but it also brings a lot of people to this county, and brings in revenue for the whole entire county.

Missy said yeah. Union City and Farmland have told me that when a race goes on, a lot of Eldora fans are coming this way, so they stop and eat in Union City, you know, they stay at the hotel, a lot of people, Farmland General Store said it's been the best thing that ever happened to them, that that documentary went out, because the sight of those buildings were up on there,

even though they weren't Winchester buildings. And people have started going over there to you know, instead of might be busy, at Chicago's or wherever else they're going to come, they would go over and pick up pizza, and pick up, the Grazing Barn stayed open, and put out things they come for the race. Chocolate Moose, it's been a great thing for them. It's really helped.

Tom Chalfant said can you, Dan, can you tell us if there's going to be an announcement for the property just east of the speedway, what's happening there?

Dan Baker said at this time, I can't.

Tom Chalfant said but it will sometime, be announced? You don't even know that?

Dan Baker said at this time, I can't.

Dave said okay, any other questions for them? Alright. Thanks for coming in.

Sheri Thompson – Health Department 2024 salary request

Dave said okay. Looks like Sherri is up next here. I guess we're here to talk about the salary request, 2024. So, where are we at on that.

Sherri Thompson said I did send Laura the job descriptions. I hope everybody got that so you can see what we're required to do.

Dave said okay. What are you seeing there, Missy?

Missy said which one?

Dave said I guess it was for Tammy's position, and one other position?

Wendy McDavid said it was for all of them.

Missy said can you explain why your salary is decreased from a year ago?

Wendy McDavid said Tammy's?

Missy said I just talked to a couple of schools, and I wasn't trying to go behind your back and find out what you're doing. But I went to ask about how's this, and you know, they were thrilled with the visits to the school, overwhelmingly thrilled with those. With just the way the world is kind of now, as families, yeah. So, explain that, because I didn't, when we were going through this, I cannot understand.

Tammy Pruitt said when I started with the Health Department during COVID, I come in and started helping out with testing and all that. And as time went on I hired as the school liaison, clinical nurse, we got a \$5,000.00 stipend or, whatever you want to call it. So, that will end in 2024. So, that will make my salary go down.

Wendy McDavid said and mine.

Sherri Thompson said and mine.

Tammy Pruitt said yeah, and so, the raise is not only going to compensate for that \$5,000.00. And after being a nurse for 35 years, you know that's a loss, because we can only work 35 hours a week. The rest of it goes into comp time. The average nurse works 40 hours a week. So, I already lose 6 ½ weeks of pay per year. So, I'm not, I'm just here, I want to, you know, I love the community, and I feel like I have done a good job with the schools, and getting programs, and we had all the suicides and then we've all been to mental health, first aid training. Now, I'm an instructor for QPR training for the schools. And I would ask that you look at my, our salaries again. I hope I answered that Missy.

Missy said are you considered to be the health educator?

Sherri Thompson said no we do not have one.

Missy said okay.

Sherri Thompson said she's considered the clinic nurse/school liaison.

Laura said she's looking at 2024.

Wendy McDavid said 2024, they have to be separated. So, she will only be the school liaison. And then we'd already discussed hiring another clinic nurse.

Missy said why do you need another clinic nurse?

Wendy McDavid said because I can't do my job and run a clinic by myself, and Tammy can only do liaison, we can't do health fairs with one nurse. There is no way. And Tammy is only, and the new KPI, she is only allowed to do things that are involved with the schools, like, if we have a school shot clinic, then I can go out and help her with that. But she can't come vice versa and help in the clinic, or if I'm on vacation, or you know, other than not being able to have someone there because our clinic is open 8 to 4, Monday through Friday, at this point. But per the KPIs, we have to change those hours, and it'll make it so that we have to be available to the public, so there will be evening hours and Saturday hours. But I can't do that.

Missy said but you won't go, you mean you won't get, you're not going to go over, you're just going to work different hours?

Wendy McDavid said yes. We are going, once we figure that out, figure out what's going on, we would approach the commissioners. As of right now, Tammy is the only one allowed flex time. I am not and the clinic nurse position is not. So, we would approach the commissioners and ask. Once we get it all figured out, and to be able to flex our time so that we don't acquire tons and tons of comp time, that scheduled comp time. I mean, there's still going to be comp time, things that come up. But I mean scheduled comp time.

Missy said so, I read your, you know, what was going on so, approximately 5 to 7 people a day, average, come through your doors. Correct?

Sherri Thompson said it depends on what part you are talking about. That could be, apply to records, it could be, nursing, it could, so, we don't know.

Wendy McDavid said yesterday we had 7 people in there in an hour. So, I mean it all depends on the season, it all depends on what's going on.

Missy said yeah, I get that. And my other question was, the job that was, I think, I looked it up, the, not to name, I'll call the receptionist, she only worked 19 to 21 hours a week, and that's been bumped to 40 hours a week.

Sherri Thompson said she is, are you talking about Cami's position?

Missy said yeah.

Sherri Thompson said okay. She is contracted. She's an independent contractor, and she works with Tammy and helps up there.

Missy said so she goes with you some.

Sherri Thompson said so, that's why she has, she is the admin person. She puts in a lot of the data. And she's paid out of the school liaison grant.

Missy said how long will that grant last?

Sherri Thompson said well we're starting a new year, so.

Missy said okay.

Dave said so, there's five employees involved, is that right?

Wendy McDavid said yeah.

Sherri Thompson said yeah.

Dave said and you were, I'm trying to remember, because of the new monies coming in.

Tom Chalfant said we opted into the new funding.

Dave said we did and it's for two years.

Wendy McDavid said correct.

Dave said and I know Tom, you had questions before.

Tom Kerns said well mine was job descriptions. So, the job description is pretty much answered, most of that.

Dave said okay.

Tom Kerns said because when they were here before, or when we had this budget hearings, we had no idea what requirements of any of the jobs.

Sherri Thompson said and I, we did update all of those to include everything for 2024.

Todd said is that two year, the two years we opted in, is that next year and 25?

Dave said yes.

Todd said so does it start the budget year 2024?

Sherri Thompson said yes.

Missy said they told us, I went to that meeting too, the conference down there. 60% of that new monies that we're getting, after it's over, we have to figure out a way to do it, but 60% of it has to be on dealing specifically, with programming, like smoking cessation. It was in the News Gazette.

Sherri Thompson said I have that list if you'd like to see.

Missy said yes, that would be great.

Wendy McDavid said the new KPIs?

Dave said these are the new ones, you guys will be working with?

Sherri Thompson said yes.

Wendy McDavid said yes. They give us a year. Everything has to be in place by 2025, and there's a lot of training that will be involved with some of these. Like the smoking cessation, there is a lot of training that goes with that. So, they give us a year to get everything put into place, but everything has to be functioning and going by 2025. And it'll probably take us a good bit of time to get everything rolling the way it needs to.

Sherri Thompson said would you like me to read this?

Missy said sure.

Sherri Thompson said the 60% is for communicable disease prevention and control, student health, testing and counselling for HIV. Those types referrals to clinic care, that means you know, that we can refer them to the doctors in the area or whatever. Vital statistics, fatality review, TB control in case management, chronic disease, prevention and reduction, trauma and injury prevention and education, tobacco prevention and cessation, maternal and child health, emergency preparedness, childhood lead screening and care management, and child and adult immunizations. That is the 60%. We have of course, other for the remaining 40. And that says no more than 40%. So, you know, if we spend 70% on the others, and this, you know, then that could be 30%. So, it just, just depends.

Missy said but Tom's right. The State comes up with all this stuff and it sounds great for two years, and at the end of two years, that money is gone.

Sherri Thompson said yeah, I understand that.

Missy said and it's like we're going to cure all the world in two years and then go. And that's going to put, it's going to put all counties, unless they re-appropriate funding for this. It's going to put all counties going, and what I asked afterwards somebody just a couple questions, you know, they really anticipate more evening hours and even weekend hours simply because people who work can't get in there during, they're working the times you're working.

Wendy McDavid said correct.

Bev said do they have line items on the 30%, the remaining 30%?

Sherri Thompson said yeah, they do. They have a, it's food protection, residential on-site sewage system permitting and inspections, sanitary inspections and surveys of public buildings, pest control and abatement, orders for decontamination of property used to illegally manufacture controlled substances, sanitary operation of tattoo parlors and body piercing facilities, public and semi-public pool inspections and testing, and sanitary operation of facilities where eyelash extensions are performed.

Bev said so, nowhere in there is there for salaries are covered within those?

Sherri Thompson said well, in the beginning, that's what this was told. And the salaries would be in the 60% or higher, whichever. In the beginning, the state, that's why they did the study they did, is so that they could you know, be competitive and bring the salaries up to the average. So, that's some of the 60%

Bev said uh huh, kind of encompass within that?

Sherri Thompson said yes.

Bev said okay. And then when the state drops off their funding, then if we increase the salaries now, in two years, three years.

Wendy McDavid said but we are all very well aware that if the state funding goes away, that we go back to the county budget, just like with the \$5,000.00 stipend that we're getting now, we understood, you know, and we are very well aware that when that goes away, it goes away. And we're accepting of that. And with the state funding, if, in the beginning, we were told it would stay 5 years. And now it's two. So, let's say they go ahead and go 5 years, and that's it. So, then we go back to whatever our, whatever the council deems fit as our salaries, without the extra from the state, and we will continue to do the programs that we can financially fund to keep everything going the best that we absolutely can. And that's why with adding a clinic nurse when, because there're times that it's a little slower than others, she can help do some of the other things that I will be doing. And that way, you know, we can all work together as a team like we do now, with the same understanding across the board. We just want to do what's best for the county. We want to be able to offer things that's good for them. And that, even if we can get them started and get them on the right track, then hopefully, at some point somewhere, they'll be able to continue.

Sherri Thompson said and also, in 2025, what the county will need to match or put in drops significantly. They only have to put in the 20%. So, and I do understand that's, you know, that's saving you money, but then the next year if we opt out or whatever, things have to go back. I do understand that. But, that's one of the other things that we talked about was saving the county money by doing this program, or opting into this program.

Wendy McDavid said so that maybe some of the other departments that weren't able to get the things they need, if you didn't have to fund us so much, maybe somewhere else could get extra or something, because a lot of our programs, the biggest thing about it is the training and equipment to get them. Like the smoking cessation, it's an automatic 5 to \$7,000.00 worth of training that I will have to attend, plus equipment, you know things like that to do it. So, once I have that, that won't be another expense. So, we could continue the program without having so much overhead. And some of the other programs, diabetic education, will be the same way. You know, we'll buy glucometers and things like that. And then, as it goes down, we'll still have them. I can still do training and education without the big expense. So, hopefully, we can continue to do these programs and do these things, you know. And if Tammy can get things that the school needs, the schools need now, while we know we have the funding and we can get things working, then eventually, we'll be set and we can continue doing what we need to do without the overhead, which in return, cuts our budget to save you all money to give maybe somewhere else, or whatever, however that works. I'm not real sure.

Sherri Thompson said and we appreciate the time and effort that you've all put into this, and we understand that you know, we may not like all the decisions. We do appreciate you looking at it again and taking your time to go through the job descriptions and all that. So, thank you for all that.

Wendy McDavid said yes, we do appreciate it all.

Dave said any other questions here? I guess what's the council's wishes?

Tom Kerns said the only other question I have again, explain where you, how you came up with the salaries for each position? It's an average from?

Sherri Thompson said yes. They did a study, the books that I handed out, that study was done the prior year to see what the average was in each county. And that's where those numbers came from.

Wendy McDavid said by the state. The state done those.

Sherri Thompson said yeah, the state did them.

Wendy McDavid said after COVID hit, they realized that the health departments weren't staffed the way they should be staffed and funded the way they should be.

Dave said what's everybody's wishes here?

Tom Kerns said just thinking out loud kind of, I think if we knew the resources were going to continue coming from the state, then I think our employees in Randolph County should make just what everybody else is making in the other counties. They shouldn't be punished because they work in Randolph County. But we also have to look at the budget down the road. The money might not continue coming from the state.

Dave said yeah, and I think they're very much aware that if something does happen.

Sherri Thompson said uh huh.

Wendy McDavid said we are.

Dave said that we'll have to come back to.

Wendy McDavid said I mean, we have figured, we've talked with our board and Dr. Sowinski and, I'm not familiar with how budgets and things work. That's not my forte, but you know, we figured out that once the money's gone, obviously, it can't be paid. So, we know. We're aware. We prepare for that and we'll just do the best that we can do. And that's all that we want is to be able to provide what we can while we can.

Sherri Thompson said and we do try to provide the schools with a lot that they need.

Tammy Pruitt said I want to say that Dr. Box had told me to get back down to the basics. And when we're talking about basics, it's not just reading, writing and arithmetic. She said when a child goes to school and they smell, or they're using toilet paper for a sanitary napkin, how can they sit there and feel good. So, I make sure there's hygiene. We've got laundry soap and I'm working to let them go to the laundry mat for free. So, when Dr. Box and I know she's not our health commissioner anymore, but when she said get down to basics at this conference that I was at, wow, she really meant right down to the nitty gritty. We have some kids in the alternative school that don't have like food for the evening, and we have a blessing box. And they'll come

down and get food. And really, I get emotional because food stamps and stuff does not buy hygiene. They'll buy a T-bone steak. They won't buy deodorant. So, yeah, my, as you guys can tell, I'm pretty, when we get down to basics like Dr. Box taught me, I get pretty emotional. So, there we go.

Sherri Thompson said and we do have, we have food, we have clothing that we take in and you know, and make sure the kids have what they need. And they come and they ask and we keep it private.

Tammy Pruitt said yeah, we've got a private room for it, and we just let them go in there.

Wendy McDavid said adult diapers, whatever we can.

Tammy Pruitt said most of this is donated. It's not taken out of any budget. Walmart gave me so much stuff.

Wendy McDavid said and coupons.

Dave said yeah, that's good. Any other questions? What's your wishes? I think I'm agreeing with Tom Kerns a little bit on we shouldn't penalize our, what the other average counties are doing.

Missy said I don't know what other counties are paying. I haven't done any research to see what counties our size, where we're at in compensation.

Dave said I think they shared that with us.

Sherri Thompson said and I do have this. This is the average that came out of the books that you guys have. I don't know if you want to look at that but. Is that something you would?

Missy said I'd like to look at it.

Todd said my thought is we'd go with what was recommended and re-evaluate after two years when we see where things are headed, the programs.

Dave said yeah. And Todd, we might know before the two years. The start of 2025, somewhere, they'd surely have some sort of idea if the state's going to fund it or not.

Wendy McDavid said right.

Missy said no, I'll pass that around. Maybe I'll, and I can pass this around too. My hesitation on going with what they recommended that they have over here, and I understand this, is that you know, we aren't going with every recommended in every other position in the county that shows across there. I don't know. I have a hard time making that large of a jump right now. I'm willing to meet them in the middle.

Bev said I kind of feel the same way.

Dave said so, what are you thinking, Missy on numbers?

Missy said I guess I'd be thinking a straight percentage if, and let me know because I've never, I've not done this, but I mean you guys, over there, whenever you leave your office, you have to clock in and clock out, right?

Wendy McDavid said uh huh.

Missy said so every time you go downstairs, you clock in and clock out, then you make up those hours so it's still 40 hours.

Wendy McDavid said it's 35.

Tammy Pruitt said we get 35.

Missy said 35.

Sherri Thompson said and of course, in that 15-minute breaks and then our lunch. So, we clock out for lunch.

Bev said so did we approve a 7%? Was that 7%?

Wendy McDavid said I think the health officer and I were 4% and the other ones were 7%. I believe 4 and 7.

Missy said yeah, I think those were 4 and 7, which I understand.

Sherri Thompson said Eric and I were at 7% because we were under \$40,000. Wendy and Doc were at 4%.

Missy said should the, the committee that you formed, should they, should you guys get together a little bit and decide and come up with something so you would understand those? I mean, right off hand, I can't.

Dave said Todd, Mike and I and Mike Wickersham.

Missy said I don't know. I just think it's.

Dave said we've only got, what, two meetings left unless you want to do a special meeting.

Laura said well actually we usually do the salary ordinance at your next meeting in November, so we kind of need to know.

Missy said so we need to do it.

Tom Kerns said but we can always amend it.

Laura said yeah, you can amend it.

Tom Kerns said before the end of the year.

Wendy McDavid said when do we have to have it?

Tom Kerns said or before the first meeting.

Sherri Thompson said the final budget was supposed to be submitted October, or, I'm sorry, September 25th. So, I did contact the state and told them you know, that our things weren't finalized, and they said that as soon as, you know, the decision was made that I needed to amend that budget to get it in.

Wendy McDavid said and I guess I kind of misunderstood because I thought that's the reason we were coming back today, because you guys would have a meeting or whatever and discuss, so we would know what our pay is for 2024 so we could do our budget.

Sherri Thompson said we have to, in order to hire a nurse, we have to advertise that for 30 days and then of course, we have to do the interviewing and all that. So, it's probably going to take at least 60 days.

Dave said probably really should come up with something today.

Sherri Thompson said and starting January, Tammy will not be allowed to do the clinic job. She will only be allowed to do the school liaison job. So, we'll be without that nurse if we don't get somebody.

Tom Kerns said I don't have my budget in front of me. Can we go position by position of what their proposed budget was and what is recommended.

Dave said yeah, I can do that.

Tom Kerns said can you give me those numbers?

Dave said yeah. The coordinator register, registrar was \$34,944 in 2023. The budget, 2024 budget was \$37,401. And then the requested was \$44,747.

Sherri Thompson said and that was taken as an average cost of several of those because my job's just a little mingled, intermingled with others.

Dave said okay. The public health nurse was 2023, was \$42,625. The adopted budget was, or the proposed 2024 budget, \$44,336. And the request was \$58,064. The sanitarian was \$37,929 for 2023. 2024 budget was \$40,586, and requested budget was \$47,798. That takes care of the

three current position that we have. There were two new ones, the school liaison, their 2024 request was \$56,000. And the clinic nurse was \$51,209.

Tom Kerns said are these averages that we're using here that you, is that an average for the whole state, or is that an average for the counties our size and demographics?

Sherri Thompson said yes. They took the study was, you know, education, size, all that was taken into consideration.

Wendy McDavid said job duties, and the thing, and like for us, Sherri, Eric and I, we don't just do our jobs. We're all very capable, I mean of course, Sherri and Eric can't give shots, but they can fill in other places, and we do. We kind of, I can fill in for Sherri. I can fill in for Eric. We've all worked together as a team doing what we can do. So, we are very diversified in that area.

Missy said I'm just curious. Some of those salaries, the ones that we're seeing on there, are they based on, do any health departments work a 40-hour work week instead of 35?

Wendy McDavid said all of them that, I'm sorry. All of them that, like Wayne County, Jay County, Delaware County, all work the same as, it's all 35 hours.

Missy said yeah, I've talked to Jay County so I got, that's all I was able to talk to. So, what's the reasoning for having 40 hours with the one person? I'm just curious.

Wendy McDavid said with Cami?

Missy said yeah.

Wendy McDavid said she's contract.

Missy said okay. So, they decide that, the contract, okay.

Wendy McDavid said yeah.

Sherri Thompson said and Cami is not on that list. Her job is not considered in that because it's paid out of a grant.

Missy said right, yeah. It's all grant paid.

Wendy McDavid said and with those salaries there, that does away with the \$5,000.00 stipend that we get not, plus our cell phone stipends that we get now.

Sherri Thompson said I think that's still in there, the stipends are still in there.

Missy said I think so too. They said it was down there.

Sherri Thompson said yeah, it's still in there because.

Wendy McDavid said oh, I apologize. I thought those didn't, we wouldn't get those extra. It would just be in the salary, right?

Tammy Pruitt said just the phones we'll get. We lose the \$5,000 in January.

Sherri Thompson said we'll get the phones. The stipend is still in there.

Wendy McDavid said okay. Sorry, I apologize.

Dave said what are you thinking, Todd?

Todd said personally I think I shared my opinion. I would go with the recommended numbers and re-evaluate in two years the number of positions and the pay rates. If these dollar amounts are going to be covered by the opt in receipts, then I don't think we're at risk. And if there's an understanding that this is a situation and not a universal, you know, type of approach, because this is a unique program that isn't available to every department in the county that we have the ability to do this. I don't think the numbers that were recommended are out of line with what the market place is paying, based off of what I have seen at our clinic.

Dave said anybody else want any input?

Tom Kerns said I don't have all those numbers right in front of me but, I'm looking at position, not personnel, I mean not, but for the director registrar, I'm looking at that as running the department compared to what we're looking at for some of our department heads at other places in the county. And that's pushing it quite a bit. But I, and I don't even have this year's budget, so I was looking at some of last years. I think it's still underneath every other, most of the other departments, you know, like the Auditor and such like that. It's quite a bit underneath still.

Dave said does anybody want to make a proposal by position?

Tom Kerns said my thoughts, especially, it's tough, you want to keep good people in the positions. And they're all passionate about what they're doing, you know. You want to take care of everybody. You don't want to get caught in the future. I think both nursing positions are semi-competitive with the market from what we're looking at some, on the private side versus some of the clinics. They were kind of right in the middle of what some locals are paying. So, I think those two positions, you know, the nursing positions, probably the school liaison, which is basically a nursing position also.

Wendy McDavid said uh huh.

Tammy Pruitt said yes.

Tom Kerns are all right in the range of about where they should be. I really do.

Missy said well and not every job in any kind of a government or any kind of organization, has to have training and requirements to be able to meet the tasks that you have before you. And so, I guess I see that some too. I'm kind of, I mean, I look at these, adopted budget for 2023, it's kind of embarrassing that we want good things to happen and we want quality jobs, and we're not, or the county sometimes can't you know, pay everything we need.

Dave said Tom, your recommendations that public health nurse, the clinic nurse and the school liaison, what they propose for 2024, is what you're thinking that we should pay going forward?

Tom Kerns said if we're going to stay competitive in those positions of those nurses.

Dave said I agree with you.

Wendy McDavid said thank you.

Dave said the other two positions that we're charged to increase are the coordinator registrar and the sanitarian. I think those proposals are, could be just a little bit high. That's my opinion.

Laura said I'm not advocating for or against, but I will say that twice in the commissioners' meeting over the last couple, few months, we have got high praises for our sanitarian and that he's the best we've ever had. I don't know our sanitarian. I'm just saying that's been said in our commissioners meeting twice. And I mean, Missy, you're usually in our commissioners' meetings, so I'm sure you've heard it.

Missy said yep.

Wendy McDavid said and in the last ten years, I'll have to agree.

Tom Kerns said but, we have to fund the position, not who's in it.

Laura said I understand. I just wanted to put that out there. I'm not advocating for or against. I'm just commenting.

Tom Kerns said yeah. That's why it's you know, that's why it's, because I mean, even though we say in two years we can go back and address this, in two years, it's almost impossible to lower salaries or anything else, no matter what we say.

Todd said well I think the biggest cost is in the fact that we're adding two positions, isn't it?

Tom Kerns said yeah, the positions could go away in two years. You know, we all know that, if they don't fund them, the extra positions. But to decrease any of the other salaries would be, it won't happen.

Tammy Pruitt said I guess I will advocate for Sherri. She has to write all of our grants. She has to do all the budgets. She has to do, I mean she has to keep the office running by ordering and grant writing and the budget. I wouldn't want no part of that business.

Tom Kerns said she does a wonderful job. She does. We've had a lot of different people in that position.

Missy said so where are, where are you on this? Tell me where?

Sherri Thompson said I'm the coordinator registrar. So, I do two positions.

Wendy McDavid said she keeps us all in line.

Missy said do you want to make a proposal, Tom?

Tom Kerns said I guess the, I'm not offended by any of them. The sanitarian would be the only one that, I don't know the position, and I have nothing to compare it to or to understand the salary, so, I don't know, I'm not the person to, on that one.

Sherri Thompson said he takes care of all of our compliance for the county. He does the septic inspections.

Tom Kerns said yeah, I know what he does, but to have a comparison of other jobs in other, you know, what he's doing.

Missy said I don't know why I picked Jay County, but a lot of times, I just think they're similar to us so I look at them.

Tom Kerns said yep.

Wendy McDavid said and Jay County has a part-time food inspector, to whereas, we don't.

Missy said yeah, he does it all.

Dave said to try to get this moving along, why don't we, I'll make a recommendation, that we pay according to what is requested of all 5 positions.

Todd said I'll second that.

Dave said I didn't make a motion. That was a recommendation.

Todd said make the recommendation. I apologize. I'll make that motion.

Dave said I have a motion on the floor to accept the 5 individuals' requisition of the 2024 budget. Do I have a second?

Missy seconded the motion. Six aye votes. One nay vote.

Dave said six to one then. Okay, here we go.

Sherri Thompson said thank you.

William Greer – Parker City request for funding \$51,500.00

Dave said okay. William Greer.

William Greer said I sent the emails. I don't know if you need a hard copy of these?

Dave said okay. Go right ahead William. Tell us what you, I know we got the email, but just a brief overview.

William Greer said okay. On the process, I got some green space donated to the, I'm in the process of trying to keep the fabric of our community intact. It seems like all these small towns, I think that's one of the main problems is a sense of community seems to be unravelling. And we're trying to keep it together there in Parker. Got some property donated to us and got some funding to be paving, got some help of local sponsors, and we're getting a park put in, a nice, a real nice professional park in our downtown area so the children don't have to cross the highway and go to the park by the ball diamond. And I think it's safer for the kids. We're going to bring the nursing home people down. I've been told that's helpful for their rehabilitation. And also, it's going, the park in town will probably, I've been told will bring down our petty crimes with juveniles at least 25% as far as that would give them something to do in town rather than just being bored and getting into a little mischief and whatever they do. But, I spoke with the county commissioners about a lot of this stuff. We saw a need that we'd need for some handicapped restrooms to be added to the back of our library, which is adjacent to the new park coming in that we found a need. And I'm having a shelter built there, and hoping to get the EDIT funds for a restroom. I just ran out of money for our goals basically, that I've got. And then, up at the park, the north side of highway, by the ball diamond, we're trying to put in a music pavilion/event, green space to hold like summer concert series. Our local fairs, I think in most of the towns around here, the small-town local fairs are just, those are dwindling away. The Selma Bluebird Days have lost some monies. I know that Farmland's wasn't good. Ours, we lost our vendor this year. So, I'm trying to think outside the box of something else in the summer to create something in town over the summer that creates some revenue or help the non-profits, and bring in some food trucks and have a concert, have like we have local businesses and we're willing to sponsor concerts each week in that area, every month in the summer to, anyway. Just have, basically put Parker, Parker is on the up tick in my opinion, as far as, our town seems to be on the move up. And a lot of these towns are on the move down. I just want to keep riding this wave of going upward, and onward, make it someplace people want to live, bring in taxpayers and develop some new. I heard some new develops going on around our town, people wanting to come in and build houses in town. And just keep growing tax dollars for us, and for the town and this county, make it a desirable place to live. I'm just asking for the, I got a \$100,000.00 approximately already secured, and a lot of the construction is ready to go in next week, or November, and looking to, and once I get those vendors here that are doing the cement slabs and the shelters, they're the same vendors that I would have do the, so they were telling me if I could get it all done in one ball of wax, basically, this November and December, it would behoove us to have them in town, while they're there, to go ahead and do it all. And it would be less expensive for us as a town. We would already have the guys on site, so they can just do it, knock

it all out at once, in one shot there. But I'm just excited, we're excited about Parker. Hoping to get it more fun stuff and activities and more things for people to do in town other than just get in trouble and get them, and get the kids something to do. The nursing home, Parker Healthcare is going to bring some kids down. We've got a lot of events coming up. We have a, December 2nd, we've been doing for three years now, Main Street market place for Christmas decorating a house. This year, healthcare has got involved. Parker Healthcare got involved. They're bring horse carriages down. I'm building a Santa's sleigh right now, and we have a parade, lighted trees. Just going to just keep trying to build off of this little momentum we've got going as far making a more festival-type town, and bringing in people and revenue and help our small businesses, bring in some more small businesses. We've already brought in 5 in the last 4 years that I've been on the board there. This is my first time asking, I've never been over here. I don't think any representative has been here in 10 years or so to ask for some help that. I'm just looking for some help to build this and for you gentlemen and ladies to.

Tom Chalfant said well I guess I would hate to use Windfarm money for this project, but, and if you remember, we, the county bailed out another town because they didn't pass the budget, they couldn't get a budget passed, and we helped them build a water tower. Anyway, Parker is very blessed to have Will's leadership. Many small towns don't have somebody that has the ability and intellect to lead. I've been to town, the town board meetings and they said things are really happening in Parker. They've done most of it on their own. They haven't come to the county asking for a lot of money. So, this I think would be a very worthy project.

Todd said I saw the different pictures of the different pieces of it. Are they all located on that one property, or are they kind of, or are you looking at kind of scattering these around. Like the restrooms, I can't remember where the library is in Parker. But, are those restrooms near that?

Tom Chalfant said it's by the Methodist Church, that lot north of there, that's where the park he's talking about for the little kids. And then the ball diamond is where he wants to build the amphitheater and the concert venue.

Todd said okay.

William Greer said the restrooms, we're going to add restrooms to basically, the existing library that's there. It's just, they're going to add that to that library where you can access it from the outside, which is basically, maybe 20 or 30 feet from the outdoor shelter we're putting in, which is about another 50 feet. East of that is where the main park is going to be. And we already have a small-children, like ages 0 to 5 park. Next to the library, we'll have a shelter and then it's going to be a 5 to 12 age park basically, on the big lot that the Braggs have donated. We got some donated land there that was awesome. There's a lack of green space there in Parker and that's why I'm trying to utilize the one we do have up there at the ball diamond where our old park was to make that more of an event festival park there. And we also, oh, and piggyback on the eclipse thing. We're planning a 3-day event day there too. So, I'm hoping to have this completed by that time too, and get on board with this eclipse. And we're expecting quite a few visitors for that too.

Dave said I'm like Tom. It's a quality of life issue that our cultivating group has deemed as one of the necessities to keep Randolph County moving forward.

Todd said did you guys all see the parks books that was put out a little while back, a kind of pamphlet of all the parks in Randolph County? I thought it was pretty interesting to flip through that and see, there really isn't much from a place just to take you know, a couple kids to go to a swing set or something. There's just really, there's not a lot. As I saw this, I thought another good thing to add to the county, even though it's a city thing. I mean, you don't have to go very far to get outside of town to get to people who would use it. So, I liked it, liked the idea.

Missy said well it gives young families some place to go. It gives kid someplace to go and do something, you know, play, rather than doing things they shouldn't be doing too.

Todd said I asked about the restrooms because that's a nice thing to have near them. You know, most of them don't have that. I assume you'll have to kind of lock those at certain times of the day?

William Greer said yeah, yeah.

Todd said would they be available on weekends, things like that? "

William Greer said yeah, we'll have both, go in and unlock them during the weekend. I think we're planning the park to close at dusk. Although AEP came in and we're going to have it, it's going to be fully lit all the time, not the street lights, but he's got some directional lighting he's going to put in that's going to focus right on those restrooms and the park from all four corners, so it'll, and we double checked it's not going to hit, impede on any neighbor in that area's peace, you know, their peace of life there.

Todd said and the shelter house, is that something you could call and reserve? Is that going to be a possibility? Or is it just first come, first serve?

William Greer said oh, for the shelter, it would be, you can call, you can call and reserve. Well the one we have, we have a shelter house at the moment up by the ball diamonds that you can call and reserve that. It doesn't get a lot of use yet, but that's what I'm hoping it will too, once we get this other thing next to it going. I'm not sure a lot of people even know we have a shelter house up there. There's been a lack of promotion of things that we actually do have at the moment. I think, I've been trying to work on that too, to get it out there. Yes, to answer your question, that one down by the park will be, it's a call up our city building and say hey, can I use this shelter at this time of day, and usually it would be available.

Bev said I agree. It seems like you have a good thing going in Parker. I live in Farmland, so I'm through there frequently. And it's good. And yes, we've heard from a lot of communities about needing funding for some of their infrastructure things, and we've not really heard from Parker until today. So, I think I would be in favor.

Dave said okay.

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

Dave said it's been moved and seconded we fund the Parker City request of \$51,500 for their projects from renewable energy funds. All in favor?

All aye votes. Motion carried.

William Greer said thank you ladies and gentlemen. I'm real excited.

Missy said you're doing a good job. Tom's right. It takes leadership and you've really stepped up.

William Greer said awesome. Thank you. I'm going to be there for another four years now I guess.

Other Business:

Minutes August 22 & 23, 2023 and September 6, 2023

Dave said okay. Next thing we have is the minutes from August 22nd, 23rd, and September 6th.

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

General funds to rainy day

Dave said next item I have on the list is General funds to rainy day. We've talked about this for several months, and I would like to make a commitment out of General Funds to rainy day. But I guess I need to know what your wishes are?

Missy said I guess I don't know the advantage of moving it.

Dave said it's to protect the county for future catastrophe type problems that come to us. Originally, it was intended for bridges years ago. Now, we have a new item with health insurance being so high, of about 3.2 million. That's our goal I think, is to get to that point over a period of 3 to 5 years.

Todd said wasn't that our umbrella or our max out of pocket basically?

Dave said yeah.

Todd said in a disastrous event?

Tom Kerns said it's also kind of important. I mean, you go back ten years ago when, you know, when tax caps first came in, it was a little bit more than that. We had to rely on rainy day for a lot. And also, if we have big projects, one that we have matching grants, where we have to match, come out of rainy day. And we've borrowed, we've set up to borrow against just to keep the budget going back and forth almost every year. I don't think we're doing that now. But we had to.

Laura said we didn't do that this year, but this is the first year in a long time.

Tom Chalfant said I assume it helps, doesn't it?

Laura said it does.

Dave said it does.

Tom Chalfant said saves money in the long run on interest rates.

Tom Kerns said it's, yeah, I think it is way low for the future, from where our budget's going to. It was good 15, 20 years ago, but it's about the same now as it was then. It just makes us more financially secure and the county.

Dave said and if we decide, and if, how much, I would like to get permission to go to the county commissioners to see if they can match it.

Tom Chalfant said you're talking \$300,000 total or half?

Dave said well I was thinking \$250,000 on our part, \$250,000 on the commissioners.

Tom Chalfant made a motion to approve.

Dave said okay. I got a motion on the floor to move \$250,000 from General fund to the Rainy-Day fund.

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

Dave said now, I'll go to the next county commissioner meeting and I'll propose that, see if they would be willing to match that. It's really, their more benefit than anybody else, even over county council. I do know Madison over there has over 10 million in their General Fund now. One of the reasons they're doing it, they've got a new jail coming on, so that's going to help their cash position and their bond position.

Additional Appropriations:

EDIT

Commercial Video Project \$5,000.00

Dave said next item we have is the EDIT Commercial Video Project, \$5,000.00. This is a county commissioner buy-in on Randolph County United Video Project.

Laura said it's out of their EDIT fund.

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

ARPA

my deputy direct, she is leaving. Today is her last day, so we will end up owing her that money. Everybody else, with the exception of 00796, hers is inaccurate. She only has 30 hours of comp. She was just hired within the last two weeks, three weeks, so, she just has the probationary, sick and then the comp time that she earned in the last two weeks. And then, with my position, that's where I'm at with the comp time. My vacation time is being carried over because there's no chance I'm going to get out of the room before the end of the year as far as I'm going to be in there training new employees with the line staff. So, the reasons the commissioners have brought this up is just because we're short staffed. I have one brand new hire that started yesterday. I have two pending employees that all we're waiting on for them is the rest of the HR process to finish out. And I hope to have them started by next Monday. So, that, with my current staff right now, will take us back up to full staff, but you have to consider they're not full staff because it's going to take us about three months to get them trained. And that's barring nobody else quits. And I know that I have people that have applied out and are looking for other positions. A lot of it has to do with just the burnout, not being able to get out of the room, earning comp time that they can't even use. The one position left because she couldn't even get a vacation out of there. So, I understand all these. So, the comp time thing, while some of us enjoy it, it's a never-ending headache, and it's getting worse at this time with my short staff. So, that's the reasons the commissioners proposed going to paying out as the comp time is earned until you know, we're not in this crisis any longer.

Dave said and hopefully, with the new wage increases.

Chris Shaneyfelt said I think the wage increase is going to help some, yes.

Dave said it should.

Tom Kerns said I'll make a motion we approve what Gary suggested out of County General for \$30,000 into a line that the commissioners, at the commissioners' discretion, can pay down comp time.

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

Todd said I just had a recommendation to that too, but we already passed it, but that happen as much as possible by the end of the year.

Laura said they're going to monitor it every two weeks is what they said yesterday, very closely.

Todd said the more you pay that down by the end of the year, the better off it would be. That's for hours worked in the past. So, to pay that with future dollars, it's not going to be a great thing for us.

Art Moystner said I just came up to add to that. One of the things we had discussed in the advisory board with Chris and the reason he'd asked for this, just to give an explanation, was he had a lot of open shifts that he couldn't get anybody to work because there was no benefit and he was just trading out time for time. So, this is an incentive to get those to cover some of the holes for him. They get paid for it as the end result. So, I agree with you. I think it's a good idea.

Dave said okay. Anything else Chris?

Chris Shaneyfelt said no, I just wanted to make sure we got this taken care of. So, my understanding is that this has to be advertised, and then some time in November, we start paying it out in

Laura said yeah, we'll have to do an additional so, we'll advertise that. We'll put it in for this month, so, after the council meets on November, it'll be available.

Chris Shaneyfelt said okay. I just wanted to make sure so that I could explain to the staff when they would expect it. Alright, thank you gentlemen and ladies.

Art Moystner, Sheriff Department list of needs

Art Moystner said are you wanting me to stay?

Dave said yeah, that's why I was pointing at you? Is there anything you guys have? I see you have a list, a laundry list of things from the commissioners.

Art Moystner said I apologize. I meant to send that yesterday so it would give you a little more notice. I wanted to keep you in the loop. I talked to the commissioners about that list yesterday. I had sat down and started making a list of things that, I had talked to the Auditor last week, and in talking to them, there were some ARPA funds that were there. I know, Gary Friend told me the General Fund was in decent shape and I kind of sat down and started a list of things that I felt were important, that we needed to address while we have that because some of the items on that list, we're going to have to address later anyway. Like the cooling system, I think we're better off being proactive with that instead of having to rent a unit when it goes down. I know I've already talked to Jake to come in and look at some of that stuff. But those are things on that list, I'd explained to him that I had two or three pages. He told me he would like to look at the rest of that, so I'm going to provide it to him. But I tried to get us down to the things that I felt were important that needed addressed in the short term. So, all those are on there. You guys are welcome to contact me if you have any questions. I tried to explain the best I could why I was looking at those items that are on that list.

Dave said I see a lot of them probably fall in the category of CCD funds, the building funds.

Art Moystner said they do. And I know one of the things over the past that was explained to me was our Cum Cap. We'd kind of used some of it. They were wanting to build some of it back up. So, if it's something we could use alternate sources, that would be great. But I think that's something that it would be nice to, if we could move forward with some of those, maybe get this building to stay a long time past me.

Dave said it should.

Art Moystner said we're hoping.

Dave said yeah. Anything else for us?

Art Moystner said I do not, unless you guys have questions for me. Thank you.

Dave said let's go around the room real quick with county council. Missy, do you have anything that?

Missy Williams, AIC Conference

Missy said well I learned, I mean, those AIC conferences are really beneficial to me. Just listening to those sessions and then being able to ask people about them. And Laura, we really do appreciate, because she get's information about opportunities you know, to go to that, and communicates really well with us. And I know a lot of other councils don't get that from some of their people. So, I particularly, appreciate when you send us those emails and tell us what's going on. And so, thank you very much. It was very beneficial for me.

Bev said I thought the sessions were good and it was well worth the time and the effort and the money to go. So, I thank you for getting us in touch, and we had a nice showing down there.

Dave said yeah, I'm real proud of the showing down there, of everybody.

Bev said yeah.

Dave said nothing?

Tom Chalfant said just ditto their conference, yeah.

Mike said nothing.

Todd Holaday, Request for information

Todd said I had a request. It would be nice if we could look back a little ways for those of us that are newer, and just see over the past five years, what have we done for each town, to have some sense of history of requests that have come in.

Laura said minutes. You can go back through the minutes. They're on the website.

Todd said that's a project for myself.

Meeks said actually you can go to Windfarm just the.

Laura said just a Windfarm print out ledger?

Meeks said print it out.

Laura said yeah. I don't know how much detail that will tell them, but it'll tell then where the money had gone from Windfarm.

Dave said and the EDIT fund also.

Todd said right before the budget meetings we had, someone gave an update on where we were this year with interest earned on the investments.

Laura said Brenda, the treasurer.

Todd said yeah. What was the name of that fund that we're allowed to put monies?

Laura said she uses Trust Indiana.

Todd said Trust Indiana. Can we get an update on that every so often?

Laura said that would be a request for the treasurer, yeah.

Todd said okay.

Laura said just stop in there and ask her.

Todd said okay.

Dave said she'll be more than happy to get that. Tom?

Tom Kerns said no.

Dave Lenkendofer, AIC Conference

Dave said I'd like to echo about the AIC conference. It was a great conference. And I can't encourage enough the people to go to those meetings. So, we usually have the AIC, we have the Council's Association.

Bev said district.

Dave said the district. We just formed district for county councils. And then the annual meeting. So, there're a lot of opportunities. And going forward, we're going to have a lot more. We have broken down the county council association in districts, six districts. There are six directors, plus the executive board. So, we have 13 members I think now, total on those groups. Fortunately, or unfortunately, I was appointed the East Regional Director. But if you guys have any information for the county councils, going forward, don't hesitate to get with me, because we're trying to make the county councils a strong group in the state of Indiana. And I think we're on the right track. We've still got a little time left to move forward on that. Anything else further?

Dave said Ray, do you have anything you'd like to share?

Ray Cooney said no sir.

Dave said appreciate you being here. I do have something I'd like to maybe get the News Gazette to publish. Not today. I'll email it. It's publisher at News Gazette.com?

Ray said Winchester News Gazette.

Dave said Winchester News Gazette.com. Okay. I used to know that one all time. I used to email Bill Richmond stuff.

Adjournment

Dave said okay. Entertain a motion to adjourn.

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

Reviewed and accepted this 5 day of December, 2023.

RANDOLPH COUNTY COUNCIL

David Benkenhofer

John Hef

Tom Chalfant

Beverly Fields

Mississippi

Will Smith

Thom

ATTESTED:

Laura J Martin
Laura J Martin, Auditor