

Randolph County Council

July 5, 2023

The Randolph County Council met for its regular meeting at 9:00 AM in the Commissioners and Council Room of the Courthouse with the following members present: Council President David Lenkensdofer, Tom Chalfant, Mike Stine, Tom Kerns, Todd Holaday, Missy Williams. Also present was County Auditor Laura J Martin.

Council President David Lenkensdofer presided.

Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner's Update

David said first on the agenda is commissioners' update.

Gary Friend said good morning everybody. So, what the commissioners have going on right now, and a lot of it affects the council, we have bridge 250 that we were going to do a Community Crossings grant with it, I mean with Greenville Pike, and that's moved to bridge 250 in southern Randolph County. There's been some EDIT expenditures going on. We worked for three months getting a fairness way to do, there's a request for a little bit of funding for the Goodrich Cemetery for a capital pavement project. And in order to do something like that, we had to come up with something that would be fair to any other municipality that may want to do such a thing, and a little bit of, little money. So, we came up with what we think is a fair way to do it, and that's matching money, and up to a certain amount of money. Right now, we believe that's \$2,000.00 and it has to be a match. We tried to get a township match as well, but the townships aren't allowed to do it. So, right now, the way we do it in fairness is affecting the cities, we don't have quite the answer for the townships right now. But we can't put a lot of money into that. But I think you know that it doesn't hurt to help a little bit.

Tom Chalfant said Gary, do you know what that amounts to totally?

Gary Friend said right now we stopped at \$2,000.00.

Tom Chalfant said well how many cemeteries are in the county?

Gary Friend said no we don't, no, we don't. We just have to monitor them as they come in.

Missy said there're 36 cemeteries total cemeteries in Randolph County.

Gary Friend said and if all 36 take \$2,000.00, you know, \$72,000.00 which we could probably handle and make it you know, it's just part of the community. The presentation put towards us, I

would have to agree though, cemeteries are just part of the community. I know we can't go wild on that though. We also had a presentation for putting lights on the monument and everybody was in favor of doing that, and I was in favor of it early on. So, and then, about the ambulance building in Farmland, I went and spoke with Mr. Huston. At the end of that discussion, we were talking about that there were differences of opinions on whether we should own the building, whether we should lease the building. And Mr. Huston told me, he said I don't want to own the building, I don't, I never have. I would almost give it back to the municipalities. I said well, we're not here to ask you for money. Randolph County is well financed. We can build it ourselves if that's the way we go. So, I left it at that and asked Mr. Huston, I said I would rather see your gratitude to be put towards a project in the Farmland and Parker area, maybe we could help you with a little bit of EDIT funding. So, what we're looking at now is the commissioners will look at it in two weeks and see which way we want to go, which way we want to go forward, and whether we do it or not. I'm right now, in favor of doing it. I believe it's a plus to the community to have an ambulance depo in Farmland. I don't believe it's a building, I mean, I don't disagree, I know Tom and I have had some discussions, but we don't need to own a lot of buildings. But there are some buildings we may, it would be better off for us to own, especially a specialty building. An office building is kind of a different story. We also agreed to put \$4,000.00 of EDIT funding, I believe it's \$4,000.

Meeks said \$4800.

Gary Friend said \$4800, thank you Meeks, to bring in the trail plan up to date. And the company doing that is the company that is...

Meeks said Butler Fairman & Seufert.

Gary Friend said yeah, thank you.

Gary Friend said they're what the airport uses. Any questions from anybody while I'm looking over this to make sure I don't forget anything? We did approve, on our part, \$150,000.00 to help Ridgeville bring their water tower back to a manageable maintenance state. We didn't go with the whole request. We'll have to re-look at that, or Ridgeville will re-look at that in three years when it gets to its natural cycle of painting, and see how they're going to do that. But right now, due to things in the past that's happened or done, they were behind in getting the water tower up to where it needed to be. And that was \$150,000.00 and of course the Community Crossings grant, we approved \$400,000.00 out of the Windfarm funding for the match for the Community Crossings grant for bridge 250 in lieu of Greenville Pike. So, I believe that's about everything that we were talking about. We did approve, I did say that on the lights. Any questions?

Tom Kern said where are we at with the morgue?

Gary Friend said the morgue is, I met with the hospital, and Darin, and we've asked them to, at first, we thought about we would do the buildup, they'd just sign the lease like a dollar a year that section of the pole barn out there. Been discussed with everybody, the county doesn't want to be involved in construction either, because it's their ownership. So, Darin is working with the

hospital in order come up with a cost to build out a section of that pole barn. And they bill on like a dollar of year for however long.

Tom Kerns said will we give them a grant for the construction then?

Gary Friend said yes. Actually, the discussion we have right now, of course, we haven't seen any numbers, but if the numbers come in what I think is reasonable, the grant will cover the construction completely. The white house that was there that the health department used for COVID was also offered up by the hospital. But after discussion, it didn't seem like that was the most feasible place for a coroner's activity to go on. But kind of secluded back behind would be the best place for it. No answers on it yet though. But the hospital, and their legal team aren't, you know, it takes time, just like it takes us time to do things as well. Anybody else?

David said I think that's it, Gary.

Gary Friend said thanks for letting us go first you know, so you have time to get ready.

Sherri Thompson – Preparedness grant application

David said Sherri would you like to come on up?

Sherri Thompson said good morning. I'm here today to ask permission to file for the preparedness grant. In the beginning, they had talked that this would be rolled in with the new funding. But, there at the end, they decided no they were going to keep it separate right now.

David said okay, good. It's for \$25,000.00 is what the grant is for. Anybody have any questions for Sherry on this?

Missy said Sherri, what are the limitations that that grant can be used for?

Sherri Thompson said of course, supplies. We pay Codi Lemaster, she's our preparedness person, we pay Codi out of there. And most of it goes to Codi, but she does do a great job. She keeps everything up to date, and there's a lot of meetings and everything that she has to go through. She also does the invoicing for that grant.

David said okay. No other questions, I'd entertain a motion.

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

David said it just has the president for signing. I had another question for you Sherri. On the new funding from the state, how's that progressing?

Sherri Thompson said as far as, I've got the budget done. Is that what you're?

David said right, and how many people does that add?

Sherri Thompson said right now, we are just adding one person. We would like to add a nurse, a clinic nurse. Tammy, right now does the clinic nurse and the school liaison. And they want the school liaison to be a permanent full-time position. So, Tammy wants to move into that position full-time, and then we would hire a clinic nurse.

David said okay just, so one other?

Sherri Thompson said yes.

David said and that's what the grant application would be for, is for full-time or a part-time, is that right?

Sherri Thompson said there would, well we would like, we're asking for a full-time clinic nurse. And it is all in the funding.

David said right but Tammy is part-time right now?

Sherri Thompson said no, Tammy is full time because she does both positions. So, she's full-time right now. So, we take part of her pay out of one grant, and then the other part out of another grant.

David said okay. I got a chance to talk to Dr. Weaver down at our council. She's very, very nice. I think that Dr. Box was also. So, I think we're in good hands down at the state level.

Sherri Thompson said I agree.

Chris Shaneyfelt – Grant request application

Chris Shaneyfelt said morning everybody. I'm here before you, we initiated a grant back in 2019 for the multi-hazard mitigation program. It's a grant that involves writing the multi-hazard mitigation plan. The plan is written usually by a contractor and has been since I've been the EMA back in 2009. Typically, these grants, they're federally funded and sent down through the state, and then the state, in the past, has handled all the financial ends of it. This year, they're treating it more like a typically grant, which I didn't know about. So, it's now a reimbursable grant so we have to pay the contractor up front, then we get our funds back at the end of the grant cycle. The state award for the grant was \$19,457.00 but our contract is for \$18,225. And our contractor has already submitted an invoice for funds, it's supposed to be paid in thirds. And I sent him an email after Monday's meeting, asking him to re-submit an invoice for the first part of the project and the middle part of the project, because we're on our third meeting tomorrow, which would put us towards the end. So, we would have tomorrow's meeting, then a public meeting. And then we send the plan to the state and FEMA for approval. So, basically, we just need funds to pay the contractor and then we'll get them back and it should be done by the end of the year.

David said any questions for Chris on this? Okay, if not, I'd ask for a motion to approve?

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

David said anything else Chris?

Chris Shaneyfelt said I don't think so. Not at the moment anyway.

Arlinda Hardwick, Ridgeville – Request for windfarm funds (water tower)

Arlinda Hardwick said good morning. I brought my board president as of January 1, Jeff Doss. Two or our last council members, 3.2 million-dollar project, we bonded out 1.2 million necessary, wasn't my decision to make. So, with past employees, our water tower is in dire need, through no fault of mine or my new board member. And the commissioners have agreed, if you all agreed for the 150. The whole total project was 411 to get it completely up to date. And, obviously, we can put a hundred thousand towards it, but we need your help. My people need your help. They didn't even pass my 23 budget my last council. So, it's been a tough row to hoe. The grant for the sewage plant was done prior, was done in 21. So, it got, it went ahead and got started. But they didn't even meet to pass the 23 budget, so I'm working on 22's budget. So, we couldn't go after any other type of grant to help with this because of no approved budget.

Jeff Doss said by doing the minimum, that gives us a chance to at least get back up OSHA standards and what not, and then within three years, hopefully, we can go back and do the rest of the maintenance that needs done on the tower itself. The tower has gone way too long without anything done at all. We've got parts actually about ready to fall off of it that need re-welded, and just numerous different things that I wish we had the presentation that they gave us when they climbed the tower. But I don't have it with us, but it's just a lot of little things that need done, and the minimum is 200 and....

Arlinda Hardwick said \$237,000.

Jeff Doss said \$237,000 compared to the \$411,000 to get it completely done.

Arlinda Hardwick said we're going to have to, they're going to have to raise the water utility rates. The sewage rates went up 73%, which was a pretty good bite for my people, but the water wasn't included in that. They didn't put that in there. And a council member thought it was going to go up \$4.00, only it went up way more than \$4.00. But we have to live with what happened. We have to move forward, can't lick your wounds forever. You've got to do what you've got to do. And I'm here, we're here together to try to help Ridgeville.

Missy said what are your sewage rates, basic sewage rates now?

Arlinda Hardwick said the minimum is \$46.00. It's based, the people were billed on water consumption, and not a flat rate. The average water bill runs about a \$100. And honestly, truthfully, most of my seniors, which I'm right there with them, they have fixed incomes and they pay their bills before they eat basically. But, yeah, it's been tough. It's tough for small towns. It really is. And I've been at it, this is my 39th year as clerk, and I make \$12.00 an hour, and I love my job. I do. And if it hadn't been, honestly, as, I'm not going to tell you how old I

am, but if I hadn't have had to deal with the last 2 ½ years, I would look for another term. But you never know who is going to walk in chairs, come in with personal vendettas.

David said any questions for Arlinda and Jeff? I have some questions. This goes back to when we gave out some monies for meter and stuff like that.

Arlinda Hardwick said right.

David said at that time, I asked about what are you guys going to do about maintenance. And nobody's ever responded back. And that's one of the key things, you guys got to learn to do I to have, and this is really a maintenance item.

Arlinda Hardwick said yes, it is. I totally agree, yeah.

Jeff Doss said if you want to know what we've done, the superintendent we had is gone. We've got a new superintendent and that's why we're trying to get stuff done.

David said and I understand all that. It's a process you go through.

Arlinda Hardwick said yeah.

David said you have a user fee. You've tapped out your CCD. Do you have a CCD?

Arlinda Hardwick said yeah.

David said and the bonding, you can't do anymore bonding?

Arlinda Hardwick well without an approved budget, we can't do any of that anyway.

David said right.

Arlinda Hardwick said there may have been grants out there that could have helped with the water, with the tower, but because we have no 23 approved budget, there's no way to, now next year, whoever is in office can hopefully go after that. But, without getting ourselves in trouble liability-wise, you hire people to do jobs and you expect them to do it, not only at this level, but at the state level, as well. They've removed at the state level, people because somebody just wasn't doing their job. And if they don't report that back to local people, how are they going to know that is not being done? That's where we are. We come upon all this without having any idea until the other one left, and we got somebody in and said oh, this wasn't done and that wasn't done, and this wasn't done, he didn't do this and they're still looking, trying to look for IDEM paperwork that we don't have because it wasn't done. And used to, years ago, the board president had to sign off on a lot of those papers. Now, IDEM doesn't do that, on both sides, whether it be water or sewage. The operator is responsible so that's where we are unfortunately.

David said I'm really concerned about the maintenance because in three years if you have to come back again, what are you going to do in between then? How are you going to protect you guys for the maintenance?

Arlinda Hardwick said well it's just like when we were back here before, there's no guarantee when you get people in that, I can't sit here and tell you yes in three years, it's going to be done. They plan, he plans, he is only one person, we have three council. And we think we have a person coming in, we'll have two new board members in January, plus a new clerk in January. One person has already signed up to run. I think, we think now, we think, we don't know for sure that they'll do the right thing, they'll make sure things get done. But on the state level, if those inspectors don't let the public, the council people know what's really going on, I can't sit here and tell you yes, David it is going to be taken care of, because I can't say that, because I never dreamed I'd, we'd be here in this, the last 2 ½ years, never dreamed in a million years we'd have to go through it.

David said well that's why we try to protect ourselves at the county for maintenance, we incorporated the CCD years ago, for the buildings and stuff like that. And we have other funds that we can use, ARPA monies.

Arlinda Hardwick said well our EDIT, we've maxed out our EDIT over the years, maxing grants. I think we're up to 2035, I think before we get that paid back. But we're looking at a 1.2 million-dollar bond. I make an \$8,000.00 payment every month. And they're going to have to raise the utility rates again in order to make the bond payments. But I hope and pray that the people that follow, make sure things are done. But then on the flip side of that, if I could say what I could really like to say, I can't because I could get myself, attorney's, advise us not to. You have no guarantee. You really don't, you just hope that the people that sit up here and report to you are telling you the truth. And if an official above them doesn't let you know or that person know, or send the paperwork to the council, that what this needs to be done and that needs to be done, and we need to do this, you're never going to know. You just aren't. I can't sit here and say yeah, we're going to take care of it. As long as I'm alive, I'm going to go to the meetings whether I'm a clerk or not. But, I'm hoping with my experience through everything we've gone through, and his in the last six months he's had to deal with, we would at least make it known, won't we? We had no idea that, and the people that I work with at IDEM in Indianapolis have all retired. SBOA, State Board of Accounts, all those people are retired. I've only got one DLGF person, well there's two it's Rob and Vickie both that work with the DLGF, that you can, that know us, that we've worked with, but when those people are gone, those others just come in and honestly, these people just drew a paycheck in my opinion. Well, it's not my opinion, it's a fact, where we're concerned, it's a fact.

Tom Chalfant said I can agree with that.

Arlinda Hardwick said yeah, and that's who you have to deal with on both sides, whether it be sewage or water. You have to deal with those people. And I know one in enforcement in sewage, we wouldn't be here if he had been still in office, but he wasn't, because I called to see if I could talk to him. And he had retired. He wasn't as old as me, but that's okay.

David said any other questions for Arlinda?

Missy said well I've got to tell you, when I was working with EDC once a month or once every other month, I think I attended your council meetings. They were unique.

Arlinda Hardwick said and that's to say the least.

Missy said and then I do really appreciate all your service, because Arlinda, I would go up and try to learn about the small towns, and she would say what do you want to see, and I said I don't even know. She would pull everything out, explain everything about their budget, all the challenges, all the good things, and so small towns, it's really, really tough. And I think your community really appreciates everything you've done. I know I do.

Arlinda Hardwick said it's my home.

Missy said but it was like reality tv in one of their meetings.

Arlinda Hardwick said oh it was reality tv almost 2 ½ years.

Missy said that was probably the 2 ½ years I was coming up on my rotation.

Tom Chalfant said I could appreciate your plight because we have the same issues, our maintenance is lacking. We released them money on roads and bridges, and even you've got bridges that we have to fix, and that's you know, that's a concern of mine that we've got our own problems we're not taking care of, and if we take care of yours, I'm sure all the other towns and cities, they're going to come and ask us for \$150,000.00 for their problems. And so, that's my concern with this request.

Arlinda Hardwick said well I know that happened with, the first time we came. And that really did increase the revenue because they were, you know, you could actually read the meters when it was cold. It would automatically go through, and that really did help a lot. And then yeah, I was the first one, Kay Straley and I were the first to come with that. You know, we are part of the county, we're here to ask for help. And that's where it's at.

David said any other questions? I would entertain a motion on this request of \$150,000 from the Windfarm funds.

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

David said it's been approved by this body. So, like I say, going forward, the maintenance has got to be a big issue for you guys.

Jeff Doss said well as a town board member, I spent two hours down there myself yesterday on the holiday, doing stuff, so, we're working on it.

Arlinda Hardwick said alright thank you, appreciate it.

Missy said this is a silly question, but is there any way that there could be shared services within the small towns?

Jeff Doss said actually, that question was brought up to me yesterday, and I've actually talked to Randy Young out of Redkey, and trying to figure out what we can do to share between us because he is certified. He's a go-getter. So, I have been talking with him trying to see what kind of deal we can work out to get things done.

Arlinda Hardwick said well you know with that, you have to have certified operators. Two years under one and three years under the other as an apprentice before you can even go take the state test, you know, to get your license, and with not a lot of money, it's hard to get a certified. We're paying \$2,500.00 now for a certified operator a month, just to do the sewage, and, \$1,500.00 for a maintenance man. He's actually just doing the testing, and the other gentleman is actually doing the maintenance work since we don't have an operator, and then we're paying about a \$1,000.00 for a water operator. The one that's no longer with us was certified in both. So, to get them, like anywhere, you've got to pay them money and benefits and all that. And right now, we're paying over \$4,600.00 a month that wouldn't be necessary if we, but we are where are, we can't just, like I said, lick our or keep whining about it. We've got to go forward. We've got to do that.

Missy said you test water, is it state required to test water every day?

Arlinda Hardwick said oh yeah. Seven days a week.

Missy said then do you have to run it, somebody has to run it to Muncie to do the testing?

Arlinda Hardwick said well, no, we can do the, we have a lab, which, the construction we're doing now, we're getting a new lab. We can do it in house, we can. Now the temporary operator we have now, we're taking him to, we are paying HML at Muncie to do that. But the sewage is going to Redkey. And we advertised for a certified operator and got nobody to apply.

Jeff Doss said it's getting to the point where we think a lot of the small communities are going to have to pool their resources just to be able to do the testing's and stuff. And then have one full-time maintenance person just to run the plant.

Arlinda Hardwick said and I know our last census was 803. There really are more people in there than that. A lot of people don't send in their census, you know, so, we do have more than, we're right at a 1,000 people. We are, and I can go to every house and tell how many folks are in that residence. So, we are bigger, but your money that you get is based on your census numbers, so that doesn't always help. But, we're in the county, we're still plugging away.

Todd said aside from Union City and Winchester, how many water tower, water sewage types of town operations are there? I'm aware of Losantville and Modoc, but that's the only one I'm familiar with now.

Arlinda Hardwick said well they all have them.

Todd said well in Randolph County, how many are we talking about?

Meeks said Winchester doesn't own the water company. It's just the cities that own the water company.

Arlinda Hardwick said there would be 10 I think.

Missy said yeah, you guys share, Losantville and Modoc shares.

Arlinda Hardwick said and you're 270 some I think, I think that's what Greg told me the other day. And yours is how many millions are they going to put in out?

Todd said I don't know, but it's not been a problem here recently. As far as I know, nothing has been brought up. I'm just trying to think if you're talking about pooling your resources, what's, who are the players, and how do you get them together, and how you come up with a plan to kind of share costs?

Arlinda Hardwick said you'd have to share the super, you'd have to share the certified operators. That's what you'd have to do, and if there was no benefit, you know, we pay total, just the employee, we pay all of their insurance. They pay a dollar a year. Farmland does a dollar a month. That's how small towns get people to come in. We have, now we have two full-time police officers. One, hopefully, this young man that we've hired will be both utilities. But you would have to, if we shared, we'd have to, okay, I'll pay whatever, and the other town will pay him whatever. And he'll go around and do the testing. But see, the state requires you to be in that building so many hours. It isn't just going in and doing it. You've got to be in the facilities according to IDEM, so many hours.

Jeff Doss said and they don't like certified operators do anymore than two facilities at a time.

Arlinda Hardwick said yeah, because the guy that's doing ours now was doing three. And it's Andy Croyle. He's not only Farmland, he does Randolph Central School, and they're allowing that because we don't have one. And Andy went from Ridgeville to Farmland because they paid more money. You can't blame him, you know, even though he was born and raised in Ridgeville, he went to Farmland. Been great for them. Like the way he, it's home, so he came back to help us until we can get up on our feet and go.

Tom Chalfant said I think the problem is the state.

Arlinda Hardwick said I can tell you a lot.

Tom Chalfant said well you need to tell the state legislator.

Arlinda Hardwick said well I have done that. I've done that believe me, I've done that. I just need to be quiet. Ernie told me to be quiet, so I'm going to be quiet.

David said alright, thanks so much for coming in.

Arlinda Hardwick said thank you so much.

Cheryl Prescott – Tourism request for additional appropriation

David said okay. Cheryl you're next, and Scottie.

Cheryl Prescott said I'm here on behalf of the Tourism, acting as the Tourism board president, and we are requesting an unappropriated, it wasn't in our budget. We entered a contract with Randolph County United to pay for half Scottie's salary for the year, and that was for the 2023 year, and it was voted on. So, with that being said, we're requesting \$15,000. Half of the salary would be \$11,000. But if we go over any of her time, she's only on part-time, so some, if she goes over on her part-time, I don't want to have to come back twice. So, that money would just go to the Randolph County United. It would go straight to them for half of her salary, whatever that would be. We may not use the \$15,000. We definitely would use the \$11,000. But, the other \$3,000 would just be for anything over and above.

David said so, where does the \$15,000 go Cheryl?

Cheryl Prescott said the \$15,000 would be, \$11,000 would go straight to Randolph County United to pay for half.

David said and the other 4,000 would?

Cheryl Prescott said it's just there in case she goes over. Like, say December, she's already above and we owed her money because she's above her time, so that would cover anything over and above. Or we could come back twice. It doesn't matter.

David said you have any questions for Cheryl on that?

Missy said I don't understand. And I have the utmost respect for you, so please don't take this personal. The first time this came as a council to me, the director said it's a one-time deal. And there's EDIT funds, 200 and how many thousand dollars go to RCU and I think they do a great job, but why is it necessary they, I'm assuming the EDIT board is thinking that all of those components are in that budget, including, isn't Tourism part of RCU? Is anybody else paying extra use of rooms or?

Cheryl Prescott said I really can't answer all those questions. I know that they come to us and I mean, this was, we went back and forth for months over this contract. And I even took the contract to Meeks and had him on behalf of the Tourism and you know, we didn't agree in the beginning. And we tried to come to an agreement just to make everybody be united. And they requested, Randolph County United requested, and I think it was before Daniel was hired, that this agreement was made. I can't remember to be honest with you.

Meeks said it was.

Cheryl Prescott said it was. Okay. It was before Daniel Baker was hired, so with the old, and I know that they came and they told us that they were only going to ask for it one time, but they came back and asked for more.

Missy said the second time. This is the third time.

Cheryl Prescott said the second time.

Missy said isn't it?

Cheryl Prescott said to my knowledge, this is the second time. I could be wrong. If my memory serves me right, this is the second time. They come to us before they told us that they were asking to generate money for a one-time appropriation of, I think that was 10 or \$12,000.00 to help offset costs. So, we did that for a one-time thing. But then, that very next year, they came back and they wanted a new contract. And they wanted us to pay for half of the Tourism director's salary to put in their budget to help them with their budget.

Missy said but the EDIT funding is already paying for the salary and the operation of that office, correct? Am I right?

Cheryl Prescott said I'm not on that, I'm not on that, I'm not the treasurer.

Missy said I'm not challenging you. I don't want to have any hard feelings at all.

Cheryl Prescott said let me explain it. I'm not the treasurer of RCU. I am on that board representing you guys. I do know the budget there, and there is an appropriation of tourism money in that budget. And I know this from previous because I was the treasurer of the Randolph County United back in the day, and there is an appropriation every month for the Randolph County Tourism part of the money that's in the fund. Now, according to my knowledge, which is not very good, I going to be honest, I think that when you guys appropriate that money to the Randolph County United or at time, it was Randolph County Economic Development, once that money is there, they have their budget and it's submitted, they can do, they spend that money according to their budget, and they put in their line item budget, we have no control over that to my knowledge. Because we're, I'm just here for Tourism, and that's the only part of this part that.

Missy said my concern is I see the events that are taking place because of assistance from the Tourism. And I'm an old history teacher, so I guess the sign that's up on Road 1, it just to me, looks, I don't know if anybody, we go to eat up there some in Albany, and we've even stopped at that sign just to, you know, to read over a couple of times. There's a historic marker up there on the road, and it's really neat. It was damaged. It was old and wooden and so, I believe Tourism, did you have something to do with that? I thought you did. And so, it's not just a festival or a car show or a concert, or a whatever. I think there's a lot of that kind of stuff makes a big difference and I guess, I'm thinking to myself that if I were sitting on, and I'm not on the Edit board, but if I were and I'm thinking I'm appropriating money for you to run that office, and then you're going

asking for additional funding to be taken and transferred over, I guess I just don't understand it, because to me, that's \$11,000.00 that is not going to be available to help Farmland, Modoc, Parker City, whatever. And a lot of times, it's not a physical thing, other than I guess it is, but a lot of it is just fliers that you can put up on bulletin boards and places for them to know, people to know what, hey, I didn't know that was going, and they'd go to the Parker you know, festival, or I call it the carnival, there in May. And I guess does the EDIT board understand that you're taking \$11,000.00 and transferring it when they think they're funding the appropriations for that office. I'll be quiet.

Cheryl Prescott said I don't know, I've never been to an EDIT board's meeting, so I don't have any clue how any of that.

Missy said and I don't mean it personal.

Cheryl Prescott said no, no, I'm not taking anything personal. I'm just, I'm just doing my job as the Tourism President.

Missy said right, I get that.

Cheryl Prescott said and that's what, you know, because it was voted on. And we had to vote on it. So, that, it's my job to be here today.

Missy said I'm sorry.

Cheryl Prescott said no, no, it's okay. I'm here to answer questions so, if I know the answers.

Tom Chalfant said it's very convoluted. I think our state legislature again, taking innkeepers tax and now we have a board, we to appoint a board, tourism, and then there, with RCU under them, it's, and our present director is a breath of fresh air and RCU. I appreciate that, but it is very complicated to me that, just, it doesn't go away, just too many people trying to do things, and we need collaboration and communication. It's just complicated.

David said any other questions for Cheryl or Scottie or, what's your opinion on the \$15,000 or the \$11,000? I know there is an agreement that Tourism pays half of her salary, and RCU pays the other half. I'm a little reluctant to give \$15,000 away today.

Missy said because this just started two years ago. It hasn't been a historic event that's taken place year after year, right?

Cheryl Prescott said no, this has never, this has actually never taken place. They asked for the other, was it 10 or 12? \$12,000.00, Ceann, when she was the director, she did come and ask and she did come to the board meeting, to the Tourism board, and she did tell us it would be a one-time thing. And I think that that's what she told you guys as well. But, in the beginning, when Tourism started, it was always thought that the Tourism director would be paid through Economic Development funds.

Missy said by the EDIT.

Cheryl Prescott said yes and that way, because we didn't have any money to work with in the beginning. And we have done some really neat things for the community. We've done things for every community, as far as the Tourism board goes, or Tourism commission goes. We've done a lot of great things for every part of the county. The Union City Christmas lights. We've got the billboard. The Speedway was a big deal. And so, we, even Lynn, we've done things for every community that I know of, or we try to.

Tom Chalfant said another thing I don't think people are aware of, the county basically gave them almost 50 acres of very valuable property in Union City that's being farmed now, but they get revenue from that, 8 or \$9,000.00 a year, they get from that. That, you know, that came from the county to start with. I think it was part of the Union City Body Company deal, and anyway, they've inherited that, and they make money from that also, besides the \$250,000 a year we give them.

Missy said and the Chamber of Commerce fees coming in.

Cheryl Prescott said actually, I think Daniel is here. Daniel do you want to come up and speak? I know that they've got revenue from Chamber, they've got revenue from a few other things.

Missy said I'm just thinking if a community needed funding for something, and to say sorry, we're running, I mean, we don't have the funding we had before, and say you can't fund something for one of the communities that historical having, out of innkeepers tax, that's going to be a chunk, I mean, a little bit of a chunk.

Cheryl Prescott said we have \$41,868.00 right now. Am I right Scottie?

Scottie Harvey said uh huh.

Cheryl Prescott said that's what we have left today, because we have done some really big projects. That's what we have that's not been appropriated in our, right now.

Daniel Baker said alright, so a couple things if I may. I did get this agreement and you can see my name signed on it, because it's like two-week into the job.

Cheryl Prescott said it was before you though, wasn't it?

Daniel Baker said yes, so the agreement was before me. I would say though, that out of the money that has been allocated, the \$28,000 from EDIT funds, right now, because I was sitting here doing this because I didn't realize they were on the agenda until now. So, RCU was half the salary, if we take out half, right, is going to be paying \$12,667.00 towards that salary. Office lease is around \$3,000.00, and we also allocated funds to, \$5,000.00 to the Speedway sign. We also, out of my budget, I also paid the hundred-dollar design fee for that sign, which was then put on the Speedway. So, right now, in July, well, we're around, for a total of the year, \$20,667.90, for right now, not including some of the salaries of our staff utilized to help with the Fox Sports

Project and other Tourism projects as well. So, there're some intangible items in there that we allocate towards Tourism. It's just not completely on our budget per say. So, what I would say here is yes, Tom, you're absolutely right, I've been trying to figure out this convoluted Tourism Commission, RCU thing for 9 months now, 10 months now. So, I'm still trying to figure that out, what State Statute says. I believe there was a 2008 Ordinance. I can't remember if it's an ordinance or a resolution of the county stating that the Tourism is put in play. I'm not sure if there was an updated Ordinance when RCU was being formed. I would say or ask the county to take a look at that, see if there needs to be an update to that Ordinance, to make sure that we have less of that convoluted mess going forward. That's kind of where I'm at. Any questions for me?

Missy said I guess my next question is would it be advantages for the community to move Tourism on a bottom level street side, I mean, ground level, to where they were by, sitting by themselves, and then they could act independently of each other. I mean would that be better served? I know it's not what you want to do, or I don't know if it's what you want to do.

David said there's no doubt in my mind that that might be the way to go for Tourism because of the exposure of the public right on ground floor. I think we've talked about that before that that's what really needs to be thought about going forward.

Cheryl Prescott said where would we do that? Where would we do that at? I mean you'd have to have something on the ground floor.

Missy said the Davis building might be a good possibility, just a thought. I mean, I don't know,

Tom Chalfant said we've got a downstairs.

Cheryl Prescott said what was that Tom?

Tom Chalfant said we've got a downstairs that doesn't seem to be used much, other than voting once every other year.

Cheryl Prescott said oh, in the courthouse. I mean, that's something that we could always look at too.

Missy said just aa thought.

David said what's your wishes then, ladies and gentlemen? Anybody want to make a motion of something? If we don't get a motion, it'll die of lack of some sort of agreement.

Missy said so what happens if we don't make a motion? Are you going to tell Tourism they're out of that office?

Daniel Baker said I'll have to go look back at our budget, see where were at.

Meeks said Tourism has a contract, right?

David said they do.

Meeks said do you want a lawsuit then? I think it is subject to an appropriation of county council. Almost all of those contracts are.

David said what's your advice Meeks, as our attorney?

Meeks said well I have represented the Tourism before, and I looked up that contract, and the Statute is pretty clear that you should be paying salaries of your Tourism director. I mean, that is like the first thing. I don't know, I haven't looked up that Statute. I did review it, but I have never understood why the commission is not paying the salary of the Tourism director. That has never made any sense to me.

Tom Chalfant said Tourism commission.

Meeks said yeah, the commission, because that's your director, right?

Tom Chalfant said yeah.

Meeks said I mean, if you really think about it.

Tom Chalfant said if there wasn't a tourism board appointed and a state statute, and RCU ran it, that would be okay. But the state has a tourism board and then, yeah, it's.

Meeks said then you've appointed a tourism director, and the board.

Tom Chalfant said they control that. I mean, we appoint, well the commissioners appoint the board and then the towns, do they appoint anybody?

Meeks said I mean I think you, I think you'd want the tourism, to make the tourism director independent, I mean, the board needs to be paying for the director. I mean, that's how you make it independent, right?

David said but there's an agreement out there that makes it part of RCU, is that correct?

Meeks said they have shared, it's like a shared, a shared expense agreement I'd call it that. And part of the shared expense, I think the tourism director is still employed by the, where do you get your check from?

Daniel Baker said RCU.

Meeks said RCU so, yeah, so, we're contracting the, the board is contracting the tourism to do the RCU, so they don't, and you know, and that makes sense, makes it release some accounting costs and some other things. That's a whole other set of books.

David said and all tourism right now is asking us to allocate the 11 or \$15,000.

Meeks said yeah, make an appropriation money they already have. Let them spend money they already have to go out the rest of the year. It's not like they're asking for new money. You're not, are you? It's money you already have in your budget?

Cheryl Prescott said we are, no, it's not in our budget.

Meeks said I mean, I'm sorry, it's money you already have in the bank?

Cheryl Prescott said we have the money in the bank.

Meeks said right, that's what I meant.

Cheryl Prescott said and then maybe, okay, maybe if we, if you let us do that this year, then starting next year, maybe we try to come up with another plan moving forward, that would make it better for everybody, if that's what.

Tom Chalfant said that's the problem the state legislature, that creates these crazy kind of things, because when they created tourism board, then we have to, why do we have to answer when you are employed, you know, you're paid by.

Meeks said the real problem is Tom, the tourism, they just don't generate enough money to be an independent.

Cheryl Prescott said we only have one hotel.

Meeks said you have one hotel, and do you, do you still have the bread and breakfast?

Cheryl Prescott said no.

Meeks said we had one hotel, two taxpayers.

Cheryl Prescott said at one time, we had the Union City.

Meeks said so we used to have three taxpayers, now we have one taxpayer?

Cheryl Prescott said we have one taxpayer. And I know what that taxpayer pays. I'm just telling you. I can tell you off the top of my head every month.

Meeks said so you don't have enough money to have an independent, like, you have to have or you're just not going to have one. I mean, that's the problem.

Tom Chalfant said my problem is the state rates all these cooperations, but they still, why do we have to sign off of them, because if something goes bad, the council is, we're holding the bag. And that's what the state legislature wants is somebody else to be the scapegoat when their idea fails. I mean I see that on the commission and we do it to some degree, the same thing.

Cheryl Prescott said they started this tax in 2007, the year that we opened the, that Randolph County, the Randolph Inn & Suites opened. I do know that a 100% because I was in the first meeting.

Tom Chalfant said that was it. The old hotel closed then?

Cheryl Prescott said no.

Tom Chalfant said it was still operating?

Cheryl Prescott said it was still operating. But no, actually when the group, the Randolph County hospitality group bought that building, and they built the new building, the hotel tax did not start until 2007. It was opened, but it was a few months past. And that's how it got started, because then, they had enough money to. And then when it got started, in the beginning, there wasn't any money in the account, so the commissioners at that time, approved to pay the salary of the director to get it started so then they could appropriate money to work with in the future to get it built up.

Missy said was it paid for out of EDIT funds?

Meeks said it was paid through EDIT funds, yes.

Cheryl Prescott said it was paid for out of EDIT funds, back in the day. And so, in the beginning, that's how it was all written up to where, and then they were to partner with Randolph County United, or Randolph County Economic Development.

Meeks said it was through the REDC that paid for it, not a separate line item.

Cheryl Prescott said right.

Missy said and some counties don't do innkeepers tax, correct?

Cheryl Prescott said that's correct.

Meeks said I am certain some counties don't.

Cheryl said there's a lot of them that does not do.

Meeks said if the hotel was not here, there would be no reason for us to have an innkeepers tax.

Cheryl Prescott said and like some places, some counties have a food and beverage tax too on top of your sales tax.

Meeks said I think that's a separate, I think that is dependent per county.

Cheryl Prescott said yes, it is. Some counties have it, some don't. And then that goes in another whole, but that does go to a tourism.

Meeks said yeah, but I'm not sure we're allowed to do that.

Cheryl Prescott said well I don't want you to do that. But I'm just saying that.

Meeks said you have to meet a threshold of so many people.

Cheryl Prescott said is that what it is?

Meeks said I'm pretty certain.

Cheryl Prescott said it has been brought up in this county. I do know that, because somebody came and asked me about it, and I highly discouraged it to be honest with you, because I think we're taxed enough.

Tom Chalfant said well it's a 1% on sales tax, restaurants, anybody that serves food charges 8% tax instead of 7.

Cheryl Prescott said but we don't do that in Randolph County that I am aware of.

Missy said and I don't remember all this, and this has been 2000 whenever I retired from teaching, when I was hired there, Mr. Beumer, we sat down for two mornings, long hours, and there were documents that showed Randolph Economic Development and there was actually a flow chart that came down that showed economic development on one side, tourism, that they were both under that same umbrella. And that he explained that you know, we don't go into each other's offices unless we're invited, and we were pretty much an open door with Scottie and I, and Michelle and Greg too. But you know, there was never any that, oh we've got to, I mean it was EDIT funding comes into fund this office, so the stewards of the, you know, and the budget and everything went down. So, I guess that, oh well. I just look at it as \$15,000.00 we're taking away from doing things for the entire community to, I guess, and chamber, how much, I mean, aren't there like 70 or \$80,000.00 in membership at different levels people pay in?

Daniel Baker said there are, but we also have budget items for that as well. We provide membership items such as a billboard over here on the road and other things. So, there's things allocated with those funds, right.

Missy said right, as with Tourism, do you do any billboard anymore Scottie?

Scottie said oh, absolutely. We're on 70 now.

Missy said yes, I know.

Daniel Baker said so, the major difference right now is RC doesn't control the Tourism budget.

Missy said right.

Daniel Baker said we don't control that at all. So, I think that convoluted, if you look at the statute, is you need to take a look at the tourism commission and what state statute says. I don't know if everybody's looked at that, but I would challenge you to go look at that. The other piece of it is we are paying up to \$28,000 right now and that's all salary, including office space, including all that shared stuff that Meeks was talking about. I have looked at that state statute as well. What Meeks said, it's just correct. If the tourism commission is set up, the tourism commission should be also taken a look at paying my salary. I'm just going to lay that out there, as much of research as I've been able to take a look at this. I'm not a lawyer, I'm not going to tell you how that statute was written, so, that's the way I'm thinking.

Meeks said well I can tell you ten years ago, I told Vicky when she was on that, Vicky Haney, and Kirsten Oswalt when was she?

Cheryl Prescott said 2007 she started.

Meeks said and when did she leave?

Cheryl Prescott said she left and it was Angie Martin after that.

Meeks said well I told them back then, when she was director, that her salary should be coming out of the tourism commission's budget, because that's how you get independence.

Cheryl Prescott said that's how you get, I see what you're saying.

Meeks said I mean, you're the commission, this is tourism, and I've said that for I don't know, 15 years now I guess, I don't know.

Tom Kerns said could part of this be solved by the EDIT board, to how his funds would be?

Meeks said well it's a lump sum payment to RC, yeah, you guys.

Cheryl Prescott said I have a dumb question.

Meeks said there's a contract. There's a contract, and the contract does talk about, so the commissioners have a contract with the economic development, says you're going to do certain things, promote, and it says promote tourism, and there is the tourism fund, so.

Cheryl Prescott said so if you guys gave, I'm not saying or the EDIT money, I'm not really for sure how this works, and how, but like, if you guys gave so much money each year in the tourism, and if we would go separated, could we come and ask for that money at the tourism commission to offset, because we don't make enough money the way it is to be by ourselves.

Meeks said you can talk to Gary, he's the commissioner, but you would go to the commissioners, yes.

Cheryl Prescott said I was just asking if you could do that. I don't know.

Meeks said the answer is yes.

Gary Friend said yeah right now, we approve two claims every month. One is Economic Development plan claim. I don't know the exact price of it. And then, right behind it is the Tourism claim, and it was separated a little bit so there would be proof that EDIT funds are going into the Tourism, as well as RCU.

Tom Chalfant said but that only happened like two and half, three years ago.

Gary Friend said yeah, that's the, right, that's the way it is today. Yeah. And I've read the IC statute many times on it, and everything we're saying is yes, the tourism commission, they're allowed to give all their money to somebody to contract to do Tourism depending how the state says that has to be done. So, EDIT funds already do separated itself because there's money that's going specifically to tourism. But, by saying that, doesn't mean that this wouldn't be a valid ask. It just says hey what if they did do what you're talking about, like Cheryl's asking, could that fund follow tourism in a different office somewhere else. That's something that would have to be deliberated for sure. It's not out of the realm of possibility. But, in the contract, the commissioners put the money over there and Tom would know too, that RCU cost allocates it out. And, their budget, as we were talking about \$250,000.00. We're just part of that budget. We're just some of that budget. That budget is at the \$350,000.00 range isn't it?

Daniel Baker said yeah.

Gary Friend said so, you've got, I mean you've got the chamber of commerce funds, you've got the commissioners' EDIT funds, and you've got some money already coming over, that's already appropriated in your budget for this year from Tourism at all?

Cheryl Prescott said we have not given any money.

Gary Friend said okay.

Cheryl Prescott said we haven't given any money in 2023 for anything.

Gary Friend said okay, I think there's money comes in.

Cheryl Prescott said am I right?

Gary Friend said so, what they're talking about I think is they need 12, \$15,000.00 to help shore up the budget. So, the total goes up from wherever it's at, the \$12,000.00. It's not 250, not even close. Is that correct Daniel?

Daniel Baker said correct.

David said and I think the tourism amount, the EDIT amount is around \$4,200.00 a month.

Daniel Baker said it's \$28,000 a year, so, do the math, and, yeah, it's \$28,388. I just looked it up while I was sitting there.

Tom Kerns said I'll make a motion we approve their request, since their board made a decision how to spend their money. That's what the board's there for.

David said how much do you?

Tom Kerns said I'll make the motion of \$15,000 which is what they're requesting.

David said we've got a motion on the floor to accept the \$15,000.00 recommendation for them to pay Randolph County United. Do I have a second?

Todd seconded the motion. Three aye votes. Three nay votes. (David, Missy & Tom C.)

David said three to three. So, as of today, it's been turned down.

Cheryl Prescott said thank you.

Mike Haffner and Perry Knox, SJCA – Financial Commitment letter for Community Crossings grant match

David said okay. Perry, you're up next.

Perry Knox said Mike, do you want to start us out?

Mike Haffner said basically, I'm representing Joe on a community crossing matching grant. Jessica and I talked to the commissioners yesterday about using Windmill to secure this matching for \$400,000.00. And that's what they approved. So, we're basically, here today to basically, go to council and see if we can get the matching grant funds out of the Wind.

David said now this is for bridge 250, and it's about \$1.3 million, is that correct?

Perry Knox said yes \$1,295,600.

Tom Chalfant said that's the bridge south of Lynn?

Mike Haffner said yes.

Perry Knox said yeah, that's on County Road 950 South over Mudd Creek. You and I went out and looked at that bridge when you were a commissioner.

David said the commissioners did approve it yesterday.

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

Missy Williams – Kyle Osgood Memorial Mile

Missy said Representative J.D. Prescott and then also Scott Alexander spoke with me about wanting to rename a section of the intersection of 32, just North of Farmland, 32 and the intersection of 1, going to 900 West. And he is asking that that be renamed the, can you read that real quick.

David said the Kyle Osgood Memorial Mile.

Missy said yeah, and so, they would actually, it has to go through several steps. But starting with our endorsement, our support of that. And so, I told him I would bring that to us, and I'm in full support of it. I know the commissioners approved that too.

David said now Missy, is this, will they put a sign up of such?

Missy said yeah.

David said okay. That would be great. I'd entertain a motion of this Kyle Osgood Memorial Mile request.

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

Other Business:

Minutes of May 3, 2023 and June 6, 2023

David said okay, the minutes of May 3rd and June 6th.

Tom Kerns made motion to accept the minutes. Tom Chalfant seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

General fund to Rainy day

David said I had Laura put on our agenda, other business General fund to Rainy Day. This county is out there with a big exposure with very limited monies in the Rainy Day in case something would happen. Currently, at 1.1 million, it should be at 3 million plus to make sure we cover just the basics. And I wanted to get your input on what you might think. I know some of us have talked about it before, that we've got to build that rainy day up. And I do know Madison County has transferred \$800,000 from their General Fund to Rainy Day. And they've been doing that for some time. I think they're up to 7 or 8 million. Now granted, Madison County is 5 times the size we are, but I didn't know what your thoughts were, how much. And we could put it all in at one time. We don't have to do a monthly thing.

Tom Kerns said do you have a number in mind Dave, you're looking at?

David said I don't. That's why I come to you guys.

Tom Kerns said I was thinking, I think we look at, we look at everything, that's part of our budget process. Once we get done with our budget and see where we're at, see where we're at with cash reserves, and we can make that decision during the budget process.

David said that's what I was thinking also, because I wanted to bring it up this meeting and for our August meeting, we can talk a little more then. Our budget hearing is in the third week of August.

Todd said 22nd, 23rd, something like that. Hadn't someone previously suggested that it be somewhat tied to the insurance.

David said we had Todd, that's a true statement.

Todd said \$3.3 million, something like that?

David said it's up around that. That would be our total exposure, health insurance.

Tom Chalfant said think it's a good number to shoot for.

David said I do too. I think, and we can't do it all in one year. We know that. But, we've got to gradually get there.

Tom Chalfant said yeah, we've got to start.

David said yeah. If we don't, we're really putting the county at exposure. Again, I'm not sure I want to, hopefully, we'll never have to be there. And Madison County is not the only county that's doing it. A lot of counties in Indiana are currently doing this.

Todd said I think it makes a lot of sense to tie it to some sort of benchmark so, that as that benchmark changes, you can work towards trying to keep it at that benchmark. And that's why I like your proposal that you brought up a month or so ago.

David said okay. So, we're all in agreement, maybe in August, budget hearing meetings, we'll come up with a number at that time.

Tom Kerns said I still think we need to eventually the Wind and Solar monies as part of that increase. I know we can't make decision on our own. It's been brought up and brought up.

David said yeah, you know, my opinion on the Windfarm monies. You know, I've been on that from day one, and it, that the original intent of the Windfarm was for roads, bridges and drainage. And we've gotten away from that a little bit, but that's okay too.

Tom Chalfant said I consider Rainy Day part of our infrastructure. It's part of our operating system.

David said it can be.

Tom Chalfant said and, with all the requests we get from everybody else's problems, it's very hard to do.

David said right. We just need to really sit down and go forward with it. That's all I have on that.

Salary Study committee discussion

David said next thing is on our agenda, other business, Salary Study committee discussion. Four of us have met on three different occasions, trying to come up with a workable salary ordinance for 2024. In front of you, you have a copy of what that group has done. That group consisted of Mike Wickersham, Todd Holaday, Bev Fields and myself. And we really deliberated pretty hard on this trying to figure out. And, not only this worksheet, but we're going to get the department heads the ability going forward, of new hires, starting at 85% of the current salary of that person.

Now, they have the, they'll have the option, if that person is trained in some way, to go from 85 to 100%. So, it would be entirely up to them on what they want to pay that new employee. And we'll work through that as we go forward, because it's always been questioned, you bring a new hire in, right off the street, the same amount that the person, so, please study this hard. I'd like to talk about it at our next meeting. It's also been questioned about each department receiving a copy of their department, of what we proposed. I, personally, don't have a problem with that. Not the whole thing. Just their department. They could request that through the auditor's office. I don't have a problem with that. I don't know what you guys think. The more they're informed, the better off we all are. They have, everybody has to understand this is not a final, final commitment from the county council to the employees. It could go up, it could, could be some other things added. And, one thing I wanted to put on the table also on HSA accounts that we increase that by \$500.00 for married, and \$250 for single. That'll be part of our budget process, but I want you guys to think about that going forward, because you know, health care cost is still one of the number one expenses this county has, and we want to try to pass whatever we can so that the employees, because right now, there's been discussion of no new increases on health insurance policies to protect employees. It did go up about, now this is a rough estimate, about \$225,000.00 for 2024. So, if you have any questions, don't hesitate not to get with me or bring it up now.

Tom Kerns said on the recommendation of potentially starting new employees at 85% or something, are you phasing that in then over a two-years, three-years, to get them back up to normal salary, is the recommendation, or how is?

David said actually, it was discussed 90 days, 180 days.

Tom Kerns said a little quicker than that.

David said a little quicker than that. I know at a lot of places, they wait a full year before they bring them up to 100%, because it does, it takes a person a full year to train to get their job down pat.

Tom Chalfant said of course, it varies on the past experience.

David said that's why I say it'll be up to the.

Tom Chalfant said leave it up to the person in charge.

David said the department head. They can have that flexibility. Any other questions on that or anything?

Todd said I have one question on that. So, since we're leaving it up to the discretion of the, on the proposal, to the department head, do they have to come and make any sort of request for that, or is that something they can do. So that we're not dealing with monthly requests for changes.

Laura said so, the salary ordinance would be for the full amount of the salary at the full amount. So, if they were to pay the them 100%, then we would be covered the salary ordinance. So, they wouldn't have to come back and ask for that. If they paid less, then there's still going to be money in that salary rate line at the end of the year, which will revert back to the origination.

Todd said if they started an employee off at 85% and they wanted to move it to 90% after three months, they don't have to come back?

Laura said no. Because it would be a nightmare of salary ordinance amendments to do that. We will just do the ordinance at the full amount, the 100% of whatever you guys approve for that salary. And then if they bring them in at 85, there's just going to be money left over in that fund at the end of the year that would just revert back to the county general for re-use.

Todd said but just for the record, the thinking behind setting that 85% is so that someone could bring in someone who's inexperienced at a lower level than someone who is experienced and not enforce that, but encourage that, so that the manager of the department is managing the pay rates well, so that it's more equitable for people with or without experience, right?

David said that's correct Todd. Well said.

Tom Kerns said we had that discussion five, six years ago, ten years ago, in community corrections, we did that. And that was based on a three-year, because we had case workers that were doing the same job. But, the problem is, you bring in the lower ones and at a lower income, but they didn't have a plan to bring them up. So, as we give raises, a lot of times back then, was percentage raises, then that gap would actually get separated and they were never making the pay of the other caseworkers, and usually making less percentage. So, we after that, stepped up things so they would eventually make the same.

David said I think they're on a three-level pay.

Tom Kerns said they are. They're on a three-level, but I think that's what every few years not a few months. But every job, every department would be different on that how someone is trained to come up to whatever the full salary is.

David said but we have to decide on here, the 85% number one, and number two, give them the authority to move forward to offer pay based on experience. Anything else Laura on that?

Laura said no, that's all I can think of.

David said anything else on that? Please study those rates and give our opinions back and we'll go from there.

Gary Friend said Dave, as a commissioner, could I make a comment on that?

David said sure, go right ahead.

Gary Friend said if you let the department heads just decide to bring people up, then you're going to probably set up a stage where jealousy begins to go on and friendship comes in. I think if you bring new hires in at 85%, and the salary ordinance is at a 100%, at least an elected body has to approve a jump over time frame, or you'll have everybody in a war about favoritism. So, if I bring somebody up and somebody says no, they were buddies and they like them, so they put a clause in there that says the salary is a 100, you get hired at 85% no matter, and an elective body has to approve an accelerated moving. Something to consider. Or the accelerated moves go like that. They're just going to hire, they'll bring them right up, everybody's struggling to hire. That's just something to consider.

Tom Kerns said the other thing is, part of that is we're struggling being competitive anyways, so it's going to be hard to start at 85% when we're just trying to get somebody to fill the position that's qualified.

Gary Friend said so just give an immediate acceleration.

Tom Kerns said it's going to be, it's a great idea, but it's also going to possibly be a tough idea.

Gary Friend said but going to the salary ordinance every time will be a nightmare.

David said okay. Any other questions on that?

Additional Appropriations

Cum Cap

| | |
|----------------|-------------|
| Building Maint | \$20,000.00 |
|----------------|-------------|

David said let's go to Additional Appropriations. Cum cap, building maintenance, \$20,000.00. And that's just into for use to pull back out of isn't it? It's not any specific project. Okay, this Cum cap building maintenance, 20,000.00. Entertain a motion to approve.

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

Children's Advocate

| | |
|----------------------|------------|
| Coordinator fee | \$6,700.00 |
| Office Supplies | \$1,000.00 |
| Training/Schooling | \$1,000.00 |
| Postage | \$ 200.00 |
| Travel/mileage | \$2,000.00 |
| Volunteer Recruiting | \$5,000.00 |
| Advertising | \$ 800.00 |

David said next thing we have is Children's Advocate. There're are seven-line items there from coordinator fee to advertising. I'd entertain a motion for that.

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

Windfarm

| | |
|------------|--------------|
| Bridge 308 | \$113,363.00 |
|------------|--------------|

David said next thing I have is Bridge 308 from the Windfarm funds, preliminary engineering.

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

Commissioner's

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| Desks for Commissioner/Council room | \$15,647.60 |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|

David said the next item I have is the two desks for the commissioners' room, council room. I'd entertain a motion.

Missy made motion to approve. Mike seconded. 5 aye votes. 1 nay vote (Tom Chalfant). Motion carried.

ARPA

| | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Boiler's RCFFO Bldg. | \$241,492.00 |
|----------------------|--------------|

David said the last additional appropriation we have is from ARPA, the new boilers at the Randolph County Family Opportunity Center. I'd entertain a motion to approve.

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

David said let's go around the room here on the council. Tom, do you have anything today for us?

Tom Kerns said I do not.

David said Todd?

Todd said no, well yes, I do. I'd say today's been a bit of education for me in terms of town water, toward water towers, I guess I would like to learn more about what's out there from and exposure standpoint to get ahead of it so that we're not in, you know, with requests like this. Maybe some sort of plan we might be able to have to encourage cooperation, to encourage some sort of shared expenses, to take a look at the size of those towns, and the cost of those water bills, and know whether or not it's practical to keep helping or what really the needs of the county are in this area.

David said I think they're, well cities and towns are going to have to sit down and talk about consolidating different services going forward, because, I know Union City, I pay \$100 too for sewer and water, and that's not uncommon around here.

Todd said well the reason it's going up so high is because the costs are going up and the people are going down. So, eventually, that becomes unsustainable ratio, right? So, there's got to be some future plan or it's just going to be band-aid, band-aid, band-aid, for the next 20 years.

Tom Chalfant said then the state is heading towards putting everybody on a sewage system. Out in the country, Desoto, Saratoga, they're going to force people, and everybody in line within a hundred and so many feet, that, yeah, it's unsustainable. And when these counties can't afford it, and they go unincorporated, then it becomes the county's responsibility to do those things.

David said plus, in our county has decreased in population by 3500 over the last ten years, which means a lot less payers for those services.

Tom Chalfant said and we're getting to be known as one of the counties that has the highest tax rate of the state, which is not good for economic development. But, it's being forced on us.

David said we've got to get people back into the county somehow. Mike, do you have anything?

Mike said no.

David said Tom? Missy, do you have anything?

Missy said just one update. I was just thinking back on the RCU thing, they did, I mean, I don't know, Daniel, I'm sure, they did put money in, but they also had a \$15,000.00 grant from Reid hospital to cover a lot of those expenses. So, it wasn't money necessarily I don't believe, out of there, because they did get a \$15,000.00 grant, which was great.

David said yeah, I remember that. You're right. Meeks, do you have anything?

Meeks said yes. So, the commissioners agreed to put in the newspaper a fiber optic lease agreement that they asked for a request for proposals on Monday. That will be in the paper, you guys have to approve it, and lease since it's over three years. So, New Lisbon has come in, and I think they won the bid for that section of the state. I'm not exactly sure. But I believe they will be making a bid. The bids are due July 31st, at your next meeting. If they're the successful bidder, the commissioners would probably approve that with your blessing. So, that would be on your next agenda. So, if you would like to look at a copy of a proposed contract, Laura has it.

Tom Chalfant said Laura could you remind us, is our next meeting the 1st or the 8th?

Meeks said you guys meet on August 8. So, it's a fiber optic lease agreement. Basically, we're leasing the conduit, but has already been installed. And whoever is the successful bidder will be putting the fiber in that conduit. And then, offering services to the people around there.

David said just off the top of your head, do you know how long a term of that agreement?

Meeks said it was thirty years. It was fifty initially, but I think the commissioners told them thirty. So, I don't know what the bid will come in at. But it says in the, I believe in our notice, not more than thirty years. It could be less.

David said okay. Anything else for the council or Meeks anybody?

Meeks said I don't have anything else.

Citizen Comments (3-minute limit)

David said anybody from the public would like to speak? Art?

Gary Friend said Dave on that fifty, the reason the fifty went to thirty, because that was the life expectancy of fiber optic.

David said that makes sense.

Gary Friend said and there's also a resolution in order to make this work, because there's not going to be a handful of bidders coming in. It's pretty specific.

David said I would think you're right.

Art Moystner - update

Art Moystner said the only thing I wanted to mention Dave was on Monday, I know some of the council was here, and I came in front of the commissioners regarding the kitchen pipes. And when they were discussing that, one of the things they had mentioned, because I know they take care of the building maintenance, they discussed using ARPA funds, which I think takes both bodies.

David said no, just the commissioners.

Art Moystner said just the commissioners. Then, never mind. I thought ARPA took both bodies. So, I just wanted to let you guys know that. I would tell you on a positive note, my jail commander did find some funding out there that we've asked for, that's kind of a leftover funding issue that you can be used for any type of mitigation for anything coming in. One of the things we're going to try to do is upgrade our washers and dryers. I don't know exactly how old they are, but I know they're very old, along with the sanitizer in the kitchen. And there's a couple other items that we need to replace in there. Obviously, a lot of that stuff is getting to be ancient. So, she's found some funding that might help us replace part of that. So, that's a good thing. I would still encourage anyone that wants to come over and see what we've done, and what we've got going on to stop and see me.

David said I'll get over there one of these days. I have one question for you. Your weapons, have they, what's the process?

Art Moystner said the pistols have been ordered. They are 90 days out. So, that was at the time that we'd approved them, so we might be two or three weeks into that now. So, we're waiting on those. Still, kind of looking at different rifle systems. And I'm going to probably send an email out to your guys to talk to you about some things. If we're doing this, I would like to do it right this time. And I think if we do it with the going trend, and I would like to give you all the reasons for that because they're talking about when you get rifles now, they're highly recommending that you get a suppressed system, because there are some officers that have been engaged in shooting situations that have suffered hearing loss. That was a career-ending type of injury. So, you're talking people that's got five or ten years on, that you don't

have time to get into the back of your vehicle and get your ear muffs out when you're in that situation. So, that's one of the things we're looking at with rifles. So, I just want to make sure we do that right.

David said anything like that you need to go after.

Art Moystner said I agree. And what we're trying to do is I'm trying to look at pricing, because I can tell you that what we're looking at on the different platforms is ranging, the rifle's stand alone is about 1,300. Your suppressor is anywhere from 3 to 500. And so, you're talking anywhere from 15, \$1,600.00 up to \$3,000.00 per platform. And when we're buying 19 or 20 of those, I'm trying to do my due diligence, and get good quality product, and still get it at a reasonable price for the county. So, we're still working on it. Does anyone else have any questions?

Missy said what is a suppressant?

Art Moystner said it reduces the volume of the noise coming out the end of the barrel.

Missy said what is it?

Mike said basically, like a silencer.

Missy said okay.

Art Moystner said it's a silencer.

Missy said that's fine.

Art Moystner said that goes on the end. But I know there're several things that you have to go through with regards to the federal government. So, we're looking at it.

David said yeah, I've got some hearing loss from an AR16, so I know that's very important to me that you guys get that.

Art Moystner said that seems to be a trend that's came up in the last year. A lot of that's changed. Does anyone else have any questions? Thank you.

David said alright. Anything else before the board today?

Adjournment

David said I'd entertain a motion to adjourn.

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

Reviewed and accepted this 8 day of August, 2023.

RANDOLPH COUNTY COUNCIL

David Henderson
Beverly Felt

Jim Chalfont
Mike Wilton
Michael Stone
Bill Holey

ATTESTED: Laura J Martijn
Laura J Martijn, Auditor