

# Randolph County Council

August 8, 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, Todd Holaday, Missy Williams and Beverly Fields. Also present was County Auditor Laura J Martin.

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Council President David Lenkensdofer presided.

## Commissioner's update

Dave said I don't see any commissioner.

## Sherri Thompson, Eric Devon-Purchase a vehicle for the Health Department

Dave said okay, the next one I have up is Sherri, Eric, want to come on up?

Sherri Thompson said the reason we're here is with this, the new Health First, the funds from the state, they have core services that they want us to do. And that involves more travel. So, we're here to ask about purchasing two vehicles, one for the environmental side, one for the nursing side, because we're going to have a full-time school liaison, so she's going to be travelling. And then they're wanting us to go into some of the homes and try to help with wound care and things like that also. So, with the extra travel and everything, we're asking for two vehicles. Back in March, we got our COVID money in from doing the boosters and the COVID immunizations or shots. And that money was a little over a \$100,000.00, and that's what we would use or want to use to purchase the vehicles.

Dave said okay. Is that an allowable claim for that COVID money?

Sherri Thompson said yes.

Dave said okay. And what kind of monies are we talking about on the vehicles?

Sherri Thompson said Eric has that.

Eric Devon said my thought process was to have a smaller compact car for me. I do most of the driving in the department, a smaller, more fuel-efficient car. Pricing range anywhere from 25 to \$28,000.00 new. And then an SUV for the nurses to be able to carry tables, supplies, and stuff to all of these events. And a good mid-size SUV runs about \$30,000.00.

Tom Chalfant said are these new?

Eric Devon said yes.

Tom Chalfant and these, is this retain price a dealer?

Eric Devon said yes, it is.

Tom Chalfant said you didn't go for the discount that the county gets?

Eric Devon said I haven't yet, no, I haven't. I just got initial pricing.

Dave said and those if I remember right, were KIAs?

Eric Devon said yes.

Dave said the county commissioners yesterday did approve this.

Tom Chalfant said did they talk anything about other than just approving their proposal?

Dave said I don't believe they asked to go out and get any quotes or any additional. A lot of times we ask that we have two quotes, two different. I think the county attorney would recommend that. So, you may want to go out and get a couple more quotes or, at least another quote on it on another vehicle, and then see what the bottom line is on either, or, whichever, before we can approve it.

Missy said are these going to be take-home vehicles?

Eric Devon said no.

Sherri Thompson said no.

Missy said always be parked there at the end of the day.

Eric Devon said yes.

Missy said we're not going to be going and picking anybody up from home and bringing them into work or anything like that.

Eric Devon said no, no, they would stay at the health department at all times.

Tom Chalfant said well I guess I would like the commissioners to come up with a plan because we're getting quite a fleet of vehicles now. And it's, the county can actually almost break even when we buy wholesale, we can trade, but we need somebody to manage it rather than each department, other than the sheriff's department. I mean, Randy Abel traded one year, for like \$300.00 and Mike's traded highway trucks, but anyway, I think we need a plan on how to manage our fleet of vehicles, because when each department does it, it sort of gets to mish/mash. But anyway, I think it's time for us, I don't know how many vehicles we own outside of the sheriff's department even with the highway and all the other departments. To me, it makes sense to have somebody oversee them to make sure everything works out, whether we lease or buy, enroll every two years or whatever, real opportunities in doing that.

Dave said I don't disagree with you on that Tom.

Todd said common insurance policies and common fuel place, a contract maybe in a maintenance plan.

Laura said they get their fuel from the highway.

Tom Chalfant said they all fuel up out at the highway garage now, which is more expensive.

Dave said any questions for Sherri or Eric?

Bev said I'm in full agreement that we need something, because there are too many vehicles, and there needs to be somebody in charge of all of them.

Dave said is there a recommendation who we would?

Laura said that would be a commissioner call.

Dave said I know, but still from our end, we need to the financial.

Bev said so, you want a recommendation that the commissioners?

Dave said to the county commissioners.

Bev said yeah, a recommendation to the commissioners that they appoint a person within county government to oversee the purchase and the use of.

Dave said so is that a form of a motion now?

Bev said that's form of a motion, yes, it is.

Tom Chalfant said I'll second that motion.

Dave said it's been moved, secondly recommend to the county commissioners to have somebody in the county government appoint somebody to oversee the automobiles?

All aye votes. Motion carried.

Dave said I think in general, Sherri and Eric, we're in favor or it, but there needs to be somebody to oversee that.

Tom Chalfant said it would save you from dealing with all those issues. They could go out and buy vehicles, they know the four or five dealers who get the state discount, and deal with them, and just have some kind of a cohesive plan.

Sherri Thompson said do you have any estimate how long that might be?

Dave said we'll recommend that at the next commissioners' meeting.

Sherri Thompson said okay.

Dave said Laura will put it on their agenda.

Sherri Thompson said okay. We appreciate it.

Dave said we do see the need for it.

Bev said that doesn't keep you from going out and looking, seeing what's out there.

Sherri Thompson said we'll get some more comparisons.

### **Art Moystner– Salary Discussion**

Dave said the next one up is Sheriff Art. Want to come on up?

Art Moystner said morning. I wanted an opportunity before we get into budgets to have a discussion on salaries for the sheriff's office. Historically, we go into the budget hearings and those are tabled until the last day, and they talk about it. There's not much opportunity to talk about the budget. So, one of the things I wanted to share was, last year, one of them on the committee for salaries, had went through, and Missy, can I hand this to you?

Missy said sure.

Art Moystner said do you want to pass it down please? Had went through and looked at the counties of similar size, and what their current pay was. I think they used an AIC book, which would have been outdated by one year. So, what I've done is, I've put things together effective July of this year off of a survey that's put out by the sheriffs throughout the counties in Indiana. If you look through this sheet, Randolph County is currently the lowest paid on this sheet. Even with the proposed pay raise coming up of 7%, we're still behind all of these counties. Some of them show that there is a longevity or a matrix system as they go through this. And I would be happy to share with you the survey that I have to where I've gotten this information or received the information. You can see Wayne County, which is a surrounding county, is ahead of us, Delaware County is ahead of us, Jay County is at \$54,000. So, today, one of my deputies can leave here, go to work for Jay County at \$54,000. They don't have to move. They don't have to sell their house. They don't have to do anything. So, this is some information that I wanted you to have going forward. One of the things that I found in looking through some of this stuff, is of 92 counties in the state of Indiana, there are five counties that make less than us at the sheriff's office for the deputies. There are 15 of 92 that are in the 40s, the same as us. Of that, and that 15 includes the 5 that are below us. 80% of those have some type of a longevity or matrix system that the officers move up, within about 5 years, they're above \$50,000. Currently, if we have an officer that's been with us for 25 years and leaves, we hire an officer making the exact same pay. So, one of the other things that I've done, and I think I shared this with the salary committee, is I typed up a class system for the sheriff's office that would include years of service, as well as training hours for the deputies, the jail officers and the civilian employees. With the class system, you can see that a probationary officer would hire in at a base pay rate. After one year of service with 600 hours of training, they would get a \$2,000.00 bump on the pay, so, they would have base plus two. Over a 15-year period, it would be the base plus 8, at 15 years of service. There's also the rank pay that's included in that table. The correction officers doesn't go up as high. Theirs goes up by a 1,000 per bump based on hours and their certification, which is something that most departments are going to at this point in time. And I think it's important to reward the training and experience to keep it with us. Winchester police department has had a hiring process every month for the last six months. They're still trying to fill their empty slots. Over half the processes they've had, they had no one get through. I think they've been able to hire, maybe two or three, the whole time. They're still waiting to see if one of those is going to clear. But they're still trying to hire. And my point being is I know everyone's having a hiring issue. No one wants to get into this. I don't have a hiring issue if I don't have a retention issue. In the last three years, I've lost 75% of my jail staff. I have 5 of them still working for me. I've turned over 15 positions, some of those multiple times. I bet you I've hired 30, 35 jail officers in the last three years. I've turned over 4 road positions. A couple of those multiple times. I've got a good group of guys that work for me, and girls. I don't want to lose anymore. But we have to be able to compete with these other places. One of the conversations I've had recently, is over the hours worked at the sheriff's office. What I would share with you, is an employee that works 40 hours a week works 2080 hours a year. If you're on a 4 and 2 schedule, like the sheriff's



department runs, or part of the sheriff's department runs, we work 1,945 hours per year. If you work a 5 and 2, it's a 35-hour work week, or a 7-hour work day, you work 1,820 hours. One of the things that I think is important if we're going to have a discussion of the number of the hours that you work a year, is I also think it's important to talk about what time of day, and what day of the week you're working those hours, because with the exception of emergency services, nobody else works nights, evenings or weekends. My people do. So, I understand the 1945 and the talk of that, but if they were in the civilian world, they would get shift differential for those different shifts because of 2nds, 3rds and weekends. I think that's something that also needs to be taken into consideration. I know I personally, when I was working the 4 and 2, considered the hour adjustment as part of that shift differential, and never made any comments about it because we were adjusted a salary anyway, based on working 40 hours a week. I wanted to explain to everyone the reason that we do a four and two rotation at the sheriff's office is we are required, required, mandated by State jail standards and other case law that we have a minimum coverage standard on the road and in the jail required. If we don't do that, we're liable as a county.

Tom Chalfant said Art, you're saying four and two. That's four days on, two days off.

Art Moystner said four days on, two days off. Yes. And the reason we do that is we're able to do that with the number of people that we currently have and cover those shifts quite well, because the officers all rotate in and out, that when one guy's off his two days, there's two other guys, three other guys on duty. The same thing in the jail, because I have to have a minimum standard of three on duty in the jail. So, we're able to do that with the four and two. That's not for the employees' benefit. We've never done it for the employees benefit. That's for our benefit. If I'd take them to a five and two and a forty-hour work week, which I can do. We would have to hire three road officers and three jail officers to cover two out of seven days, because I would be below my minimum standard for staffing that I'm required. So, the four and two isn't the employees or the benefits for them, it's administration. It's been that way since I started, just so we could make the numbers meet. That's why we do that shift. One of the things that I think it's important to note for you guys being the fiscal body is I think one of the most important things in emergency services right now in the world we live in is training and experience. You can't replace the experience. Once they leave, we're not going to have experienced officers apply to this department for the pay we're making. The ones' that's left, I know one in particular, went to Muncie Police Department. He was an instructor for us, had been with us for eight years. Muncie saved themselves somewhere between 75 and \$100,000.00 in training for that officer. They should have probably sent you guys a thank you letter, because that's what they got. The cost to replace a deputy at the sheriff's office, the first day that he works, we have between 5 and \$10,000.00 invested in that officer in equipment and training the first day he sits down in a car. By the time he graduates from the academy at the end of his first year, I would estimate we have somewhere around 25 or \$30,000.00 invested in that officer in training. I'm not counting his salary, because we're paying it too.

Todd said what would that second year, like, you're saying the first year is more expensive, I assume, then the second, the third and fourth.

Art Moystner said you're absolutely correct, yes.

Todd said so what's the second, the third and a fourth year?

Art Moystner said by the time they have five years in, my estimate is you are somewhere between 35 and \$45,000.00, depending on the officer, and depending on what schools he's went to.

Todd said so the first year, you're saying you've got the 25 to 30 invested and by the time they've reached five years, you're right around 40, 45?

Art Moystner said you can add about 5 to \$10,000.00 a year depending on what they do.

Todd said and do you have a grid showing the current officers you have, and where they would fall into these categories?

Art Moystner said I do not currently, but I can have it by the end of the week if you need it.

Tom Chalfant said yeah, Art, that was, could you give us a projection what, if we implement this, what's it going to cost us five years from now, next year, you know, if we would go along with this proposal?

Art Moystner said I will have that for you by Friday or Monday.

Todd said and the other question I had on the closest counties, on Jay, Wayne and Delaware, these numbers, are they averages?

Art Moystner said these are for a road deputy. These are not, they're rank officers. These are the patrol deputies that they have.

Todd said but these might be counties that have a grid or a matrix-type pay scale?

Art Moystner said they do have.

Todd said and this is an average of those officers from that scale?

Art Moystner said what I've got for Delaware County for example, the \$53,402 would be your starting salary as a deputy with the Delaware County Sheriff's office. And they have a matrix that extends them to \$58,500. I would have to go back and look to see if they hit that at 15 years or at 20. But that's the matrix that takes them up to that amount over their time at Delaware County. I know White County shows theirs starting at \$51,800 with the matrix taking them to \$64,529. And there's a whole lot of different ways that they figure. I know Adams county goes off of a percentage for every year that you're there. There's base plus a percent. And when I did ours I was trying to keep it simple. So, there's just a lot of things that go on with this. And during the budget process, we don't get much of a chance to come in and talk about the salaries and the employees and everything like that. As you can see, sitting in the back of this room, I have some young guys that in good conscious, if they came to me tomorrow and said Sheriff, we're looking at this department because we can make \$10,000.00 more. The only thing I could do in good conscious is write them a letter of reference. I don't want to lose any of them.

Missy said Art, on yours where you say you have 16 officers, but how many would be fully staffed. I mean if you could fully staff, does that number go up?

Art Moystner said I'm at 16. I am fully staffed on the road right now. I do not want to go through another hiring process. The hiring process that I've had over the last few years, I have 15 applicants, I might have half of them show up for the testing process. I might get two or three through that testing process. And I'll do the background check. I might have one or two. And I've hired good officers recently. But, it's not like it was when I hired on. I think there were 40 or 45 of us sitting in that room when I took the test. There were 15 of us that made the merit list. They cut it down to 10. I don't have that anymore. We can't afford to lose anymore good people. I'm afraid of what the department is going to look like. I have 3 ½ years left. I don't know if you guys are aware, but when Sheriff Hendrickson was in office, he replaced everyone on that department with the exception of three. Now, some of those were retirements. Some of them just left. There's a pretty big experience gap in my department. And that's a killer when it comes to training and costs. I don't want another experience gap.

Missy said one more question. So, on the requirements as we're going down through where it says 600, 700, so, are those required hours of training that they have to get?

Art Moystner said in order to meet the class system?

Missy said yeah.

Art Moystner said yes. They would have to have that many years of service plus that many hours of training.

Missy said yeah.

Tom Chalfant said but that's your class system? I mean that's not statute or anything?

Art Moystner said no, this class system is not statute. This is something that I came up with.

Missy said I guess my, well let me rephrase it another way. So, if you're going to be a deputy second class, are you mandated to have 850 hours to meet regulations?

Art Moystner said of certified training.

Missy said yes.

Art Moystner said with our department, yes. With the state, no.

Missy said okay.

Art Moystner said no, we have mandatory in-service hours we're required to get. But those in-service hours are dictated by the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy and the Indiana Law Enforcement Board. So, we have those hours, and we meet those plus some. So, like I said, we've got a great group of guys that do a lot of training. I'd just like to retain all of them. And the figure I've given you on the Sheriffs' offices from the surrounding areas, what I'm hearing, it's anywhere from a 3 to 5% pay raise that they're looking at this year. So, again, if we stick with the number that I was provided earlier, you could still go to Jay County for 8 to \$10,000.00 more. Why wouldn't they?

Bev said where, the training, does it all take place at where you send them originally? I mean, or is training in different locations?

Art Moystner said that's a great question, because what we have to do is we have to send every new officer to the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy for the Tier 1 training course. They have to have it to be certified. Once that's complete, we have in-service hours that we're required to get. What we do is we maintain instructors. So, we send people to school. We pay for them to become an instructor in firearms. They instruct our department. I can send someone to training for somewhere around 2500 to \$4,000.00 for the class. And they come back as a certified instructor and they can train our department and the other local departments here locally. If I were to pay to have someone come in and teach any of those classes, because we do firearms, defense tactics, emergency vehicle operations are every year mandatory-type training. We have generalist classes that we have to take to stay up on law. We have some state mandated thing which is 7 categories that includes domestic violence. Right now, de-escalation training is one of the things they put on this year. So, we have to send people to become certified instructors, because if I have somebody come in and teach that class, every year they come in and teach in a

department of 20 people, we're paying 500 to a \$1,000.00 per student to have another instructor come in. So, it's cheaper for the department to send them to school and become instructors and be able to teach that every year, and then every 3 or 4 years on some of the classes they have, they have to go get a re-certification, which is less time and less money. But we keep them certified that way. I know when the one specifically, left for Muncie, I think he was an instructor in three different areas. So, that's a lot of money I have to invest in someone else early to get that taken care of. I know coming up through the ranks, I was an instructor in three different areas. I'm a little older, don't move quite as well as I used to. So, we've brought some of the younger guys in and they've taken over the instructor things that I did because I really don't have time for it now. But that's part of the process, is to turn your department over, train them, let them get the experience and come up and eventually, they're going to be the leaders of this community, and this department. And we have to have it. Like I said, right now, there's an age gap. We have the top three are over 25 years, here at the Sheriff's office, and then you drop down to Sheriff Hendrickson hired the next one, and he's been out of office for 12, almost 13 years now. Or no, he was in office 12 or 13 years ago when he came in. But he's hired those individuals. And they've been trained. So, there's a gap of what, 13 years, of experience right there. I don't want to do that again, because these young guys, if they're less than 5, 6, 7, 8 years on, and they leave someplace or once they lock 10 with us and go someplace else and make more money, draw a second pension. But I just, I think we need to seriously talk about retention within the county in the emergency services. But I can provide you those numbers. I wanted to make sure we got something out there as we're moving forward, especially when I saw what was coming in, because I think with what's there, I'm going to lose some people.

Todd said so on that grid, how far back will you be looking within?

Art Moystner said I don't understand the question.

Todd said okay. So, I guess maybe I'm not, the grid is going to show how many people you've got and how long they've been there right?

Art Moystner said correct.

Toss said so, what I was interested in is how many times those positions have turned over in the last number of years, because one of the ways to try to justify the additional expense of that cost of training, and to know how many times the positions have turned over helps understand the costs. So, I don't know if you got the last four years or last two years, or just something so we can see.

Art Moystner said I will try to come up with what I can come up with. I will talk to the jail commander and see if I can figure out how many jail officers we've actually turned over since I took over.

Todd said the payroll records could probably tell you.

Art Moystner said possibly.

Todd said if for these 16 positions, we've had 20 people over the last.

Art Moystner said sure.

Tom Chalfant said you're training budget would show a lot of that.

Todd said yeah that would too.

Art Moystner said the training budget?



Tom Chalfant said yeah. I mean, where you've had to spend money over and over and over again.

Art Moystner said Ken, can I have you come up? Can I have you come up a second? What I can share with you is we supplement different things. So, to be able to look at a specific line item and say this is what we do with that, I think that would be very difficult. I can go back and try to look at personnel records, maybe get with the auditor's office and see what we can come up with.

Ken Hendrickson said training budget is going to be hard to figure out because we do so much supplement. We supplement through commissary. We supplement through handgun permits. I think the actual training budget that was set by the county at one time was a 1,000. I'm just going to go off memory here, what it used to be. The county gave us a 1,000. We would supplement like 9 ourselves. So, to say that I could go back on every record on every supplement we did for every training, no, I can't go that far. I just can't.

Tom Chalfant said but it would be helpful if you could say the last 5 years, we've spent about a \$100,000.00 a year training other counties' people, I mean that would be a good argument for retention. We're spending a lot of money that goes out of our county, our taxpayer dollars because you train people for other counties is what you're telling us.

Art Moystner said at the current pay rate, that's what we're going to continue to do.

Todd said yeah, I think just knowing how many people went through that job position over the last several years would give us a pretty good idea of what the.

Art Moystner said I think I can give you a real good idea what it comes to the jail, as far as turnover over the last 3 or 4 years. I'll check with the jail commander to try to come up with those figures precisely. I can share with you that we've hired 6, 5 or 6 since I've been sheriff. But I'll get those numbers too. And like I said, when Sheriff Hendrickson was in, he hired 14.

Ken Hendrickson said we had 7, I'm trying to figure out that number, 7 off of retirement if I remember right, because retirements starts really on my first year, when you know, so, we'll start with say the prior sheriff, who came back for three months just to get his, the rest of his time in. He went three months and so, he retired, then you just have the retirements. Then you'll have a couple, you know, we lost two, I believe to Cobalt, two I think to Culys. I mean I'm just, I'm going off 12 years here, I'm trying to remember back. Cobalt and Culys was two of my biggest ones then obviously. Post office, and I think so, that's memory on the few. And then like I said 6 I think to retirement in that 8 years also. Actually, all of the retirements I think happened prior to 15 if I remember right, either 14 or 15. I think it was 15 was my last actual retirement on one.

Art Moystner said and I think 3 or 4 of them in the back of the room are current instructors with us. So, and I know the others are working on that. So, we have quite a bit invested in these young men.

Ken Hendrickson said we have to get the, you know, we're giving everybody an opportunity to submit what they would like to be an instructor in. Obviously, we're not going to have 5 instructors of one category, but to find an area, and the thing about the instructors, they have to want to instruct in that field. I'm not going to just say, you're going to be an instructor in this field he has no ambition with that field. I just wouldn't do that. So, they need to be, we want somebody that wants to do that field, because they'll take it more to heart when they're instructing that field. But we, what we are looking at is the future the department will have, absolutely, because one day I'm going to be gone, he'll be gone, and you know, we want to turn it over better than what we find it, like any job you would. And just want to be



able to know that when I'm on my porch retired, that if I call a deputy, I know I'm going to get, and that's exactly how I look at it.

Art Moystner said do you guys have any questions for me?

Bev said thank you for the information.

Art Moystner said I appreciate you listening to me today. And I think it's important for the county, as a whole, that if we walk through these processes together with open communication and transparency, to make sure, because I know you guys have goals that you've set, and we do too. That, as Ken said, we want to leave it better than we found it if we can. So, I just need your help to do that. So, thank you all.

Dave said any other questions? Alright thanks for coming in.

**Other Business:**

**Minutes of July 5 and July 26**

Dave said other business, Minutes of July 5<sup>th</sup> and July 26<sup>th</sup>.

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

**Review of the estimated property tax levy limits and circuit breaker**

**The county fiscal body shall review at its first meeting in August the estimated property tax levy limits and the estimated reductions due to circuit breakers for each taxing unit. The county fiscal body will prepare and distribute a written recommendation for the taxing units, or the county auditor will distribute the minutes of the meeting to all taxing units after the minutes are approved by the fiscal body. (Ind. Code § 6-1.1-17-3.6)**

Dave said the next item we have is Review of the estimated property tax levy limits and circuit breaker. Laura what have you got for us?

Laura said so I sent you guys out the estimations from the state after we entered all of our numbers, and our estimated initial max levy is the \$7,168,501. Then if you add the cum cap, mental health and disabilities, it comes to \$8,279,155.

Missy said can you give me that number again?

Laura said \$8,279,155. And that's based off of this sheet.

Todd said so is the max levy minus the second page estimate approximately what total?

Laura said yes. So, our property tax cap loss, which is basically, what they call the circuit breaker, is the \$631,100. That's our estimate for 2024.

Todd said that's about 7.6.

Laura said so, basically, it's saying that out of what we would collect without the tax caps, minus the tax cap, that's the most we can collect.

Dave said so we're losing \$631,000.00 for 2024.

Laura said right.

Dave said and like Laura said, circuit breaker loss.

Todd said looks like the overall levy would just go up slightly, like a \$150,000 or something like that. \$7,500,000 at the end of 23, take the max levy minus the circuit breaker. It's just a little bit more, 7 million 650, something like that.

Laura said not going up a lot. So, anyway, based off of the I.C. code, then I went ahead and added to the agenda just so you would know why we're reviewing this is just because we have to review it with you at your first meeting in August. So, I sent this stuff out for you to look at. Then it says we can either do a letter or send out the minutes, and at this point, I didn't do a letter, so, if you want a letter, rather than send out the minutes, I can do it for your next meeting, and bring it to the budget hearing for you guys to approve and sign. However, you want to do it. Otherwise, we'll just do the minutes.

Bev said sounds good.

Dave said the minutes speak for itself.

Laura said exactly. It tells what the discussion was.

Todd said this is the, sort of estimated max, what about the amount that never gets collected?

Laura said that doesn't get collected, so we can't do anything with it.

Todd said what's it roughly, do you know what that?

Laura said 600, is the estimate.

Dave said the collected amount. That people don't pay.

Todd said yeah, the default.

Meeks said it goes to tax sale. And then it depends if somebody buys it at a tax sale.

Laura said right. We usually have a lot of properties that don't sell.

Dave said so, that was just for reference only.

Laura said yeah, that was just for reference, and so you guys could go over it.

Dave said thanks Laura.

Missy said Meeks if they go to tax sale and they sell, before the deed is transferred, do they have to pay the back taxes?

Meeks said we get paid. So, if you get a tax sale and it's a \$1,000.00 bill and you come in and pay it, buy it for a thousand bucks, we get the thousand. Now, if you want to redeem that property, you have to come in, pay a thousand, plus the fees.

Laura said fees, interest and penalty.

Meeks said fees, and there's a bunch of fees.

Missy said yeah, I know.

Meeks said costs.

Todd asked when is that?

Laura said September.

Meeks said we do one in September, October.

Laura said and then the commissioners' search sell, which is a little different, this is in the spring.

Meeks said so the big one's in the fall and the smaller one in the spring.

Dave said any other questions on that Todd. It wouldn't hurt sometime, if you wanted to go through a tax sale, go through one. It's pretty interesting.

**APC/BZA attendance report**

Dave said next item we have is Area Planning, BZA attendance report. Laura sent that out to everybody. It's just for our review.

**Coroner request for grant application**

Dave said I don't see Darin here.

Laura said no, and I told him that if he couldn't be here it was fine, but this is his grant request application, and it was for supplies. Like he doesn't get any money, they send him the supplies. So, the commissioners approved it yesterday, and he just needs your approval to be able to get those supplies.

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

**Farmland Public Library appointment – Chelsey Sullivan**

Dave said next item, Farmland Public Library appointment.

Laura said I added this since I sent things out, so you haven't really seen it, I received it in the mail from Farmland Public Library. They're wanting you guys to appoint.

Dave said Chelsey Sullivan from Farmland Library board. Entertain a motion.

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

**Additional Appropriations:**

**EDIT**

Fountain Park Cemetery	\$2,000.00
RCU-Open for Business	\$8,000.00
Trail cost analysis	\$4,800.00

Dave said we're down to Additional Appropriations from the EDIT. Fountain Park Cemetery for \$2,000, RCU for \$8,000, and Trail cost analysis, \$4,800. I'd entertain a motion on all three of those. Anybody want to make a motion for those three?

Tom Chalfant said I guess I have a problem with this trail cost analysis.

Dave said do you want to do them individually?

Tom Chalfant said yeah, I guess so.

Dave said let's do the first one, Fountain Park Cemetery for \$2,000. Entertain a motion.

Bev made motion to approve.

Missy said I'll second that with hesitancy that you have 37 cemeteries in Randolph County. That's all I want to say, but I will second it.

Dave said I think the number, not to correct it, but, it was 67 yesterday they talked about.

Missy said oh really.

Tom Chalfant said are those active cemeteries?

Laura said I think the 37 are active.

Missy said active, then maybe I.

Laura said kind of, yeah.

Todd said at least, I would think, inactive, there's got to be more than that?

Laura said yeah, I think the 72 included the in-actives, because when Susie called me, she made the comment that a lot of those cemeteries they're talking about are on private property.

Dave said and if the commissioners read their requirements of their duties, anything from 1850 or older, if there isn't any funding, they're required to maintain. It may be an issue moving forward. Okay, so, I've got a motion and a second on the Fountain Park Cemetery. All in favor?

All aye votes. Motion carried.

Dave said next request I have is Randolph County Open for Business Program. Entertain a motion.

Missy said I don't know anything about it.

Dave said want to come up here Daniel?

Daniel Baker said so Open for Business competition is a pitch competition that Jay County did. I'm sorry, I knew you were going to ask the question, there's a flyer that we posted, so we have a match from EDP of \$8,000.00. So, we have a total of \$16,000.00 for the project. A thousand dollars of that is going to go towards basically, the added stuff in terms of getting the venue and everything set up. The other breakdown, as you can see, there's first, second, third place prizes, that we're going to work through on that as well. This is for any Randolph County residents for this program. It's not just businesses, anything like that. So, if you think of Shark tank type stuff, initiatives and different things, that's what that is supporting.

Tom Chalfant said is it a familiar one they've done in Delaware County Innovation

Daniel said yeah, Delaware County has done one. So, you can see the different prizes and everything we're doing down there. So, \$8,000.00 right now, is not for Randolph County United, it's for this program. And, like I said, EDP has matched it. And what you have to do to be able to be eligible you actually have to attend meetings with the small business administration. You have to attend multiple sessions. They have to go through business planning. They have to go through a marketing. It's trying to help them with these different pitches. These are, Jay County, they had students take part in the pitch competition. I believe one of them actually won a prize. We also will have multiple panels, if you will, of judges, and one of those is to have students from all five school districts to have the ability to give out \$500.00 to whoever they deem as a good project. So, this is a county-wide community project that we are working on. Has been very successful in other counties as well. Any other questions?

Missy said no, I'm good.

Dave said entertain a motion to approve.

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

Dave said okay, next item I have on the agenda is a trail cost analysis from EDIT. I would entertain a motion to approve.

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

**Health Department**

Uniforms	\$1,000.00
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Dave said the next item I have is Health Department for uniforms. Entertain a motion.

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

**Elected Official Training**

Training for Council	\$2,000.00
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Dave said next item I have is Elected Official Training, Training for Council. Entertain a motion.

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

Laura said there was legislation that passed where you guys can now use that elected official training fund, and we have cash in there. So, we figured AIC is coming up, a lot of you attend that, and I think that's an allowable expense out of the elected official. So, that's why we're appropriating that.

Dave said can I have a show of hands, how many are going to AIC conference, three, four. That's great. They are very, very informative at those conferences.

**Windfarm**

Town of Ridgeville	\$150,000.00
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Dave said okay, the next item we have is from the Windfarm monies, the town of Ridgeville for a \$150,000.00 for their water tower. Entertain a motion. It has been approved by the County Commissioners.

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

**ARPA**

Federal Audit	\$6,768.00
Jail building maintenance	\$23,865.00

Dave said next one we have is from the ARPA funds. They've done a federal audit. I would entertain a motion for approval.

Tom Chalfant said this approving the audit funds?

Dave said right.

Tom Chalfant said how much was that again?

Dave said \$6,768.00.

Tom Chalfant asked is that done by the State Board of Accounts?

Laura said yes. And that's just federal portion.

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

Dave said next one I have is from ARPA, jail building maintenance of \$23,865, and this is for cast iron waste emit pipes. Entertain a motion.

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

<b>Transfers</b>	<b>from</b>	<b>to</b>
\$1,500.00	Jailer 5	Training/Schooling

Dave said okay the next one I have is a transfer of funds from Jailer 5 to training/schooling at the jail. Entertain a motion. It's for \$1,500.00.

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

Dave said the last thing we have is go around the county council members. Missy, do you have anything today?

**Missy Williams – Randolph County Solid Waste**

Missy said I just have one question. And I'm not questioning anything about the recycling program, or the recycling district, the board. But, it is separate from anything from anything we do. We have really no say over it, correct? There's a board that operates and runs that?

Dave said right. I sit on that board, as a county council rep. Actually, it takes three commissioners, one county council in the largest city.

Tom Chalfant said Union City also had one.

Dave said yes. We just went through the budget process yesterday over there.

Tom Chalfant said they operate off of tipping fees.

Dave said there's no tax dollars that goes into that.

Missy said yeah.

Dave said but we have the over sight of it.

Bev said so it's for informational purposes mostly.

Dave said yeah. Anything else Missy?

Missy said no, no that's it.

Dave said okay. Bev?

Bev said I have nothing, thank you.

Dave said Tom? Mike? Todd? Meeks?

**Meeks Cockerill – Solar Project, Handbook updates, Discrimination complaint, Protective orders**

Meeks said I actually did have a couple of things. I got contacted by another solar project, Sonder Energy. I told them to come and make a presentation. They're looking at maybe doing a solar project in 2025 or 2026. I told him we just went through one, so there's probably a benefit that they want to get those things.

Tom Chalfant said what was their name again?

Meeks said Sonder, S-o-n-d-e-r. Ben Vollmer, V-o-l-l-m-e-r. So, I don't know if they'll be contacting you. I know they talked about, I think he contacted Laura.

Laura said yeah, they called and asked for information.

Meeks said so, that might, I told him if he wanted to, it's probably beneficial to try to get it done this year since we've just.

Tom Chalfant said I don't know if there's even any place for that unless they've got a spot.

Meeks said he said there was. I asked him that exact question, Tom. So, I don't know. I don't know much about it, other than he was asking and I told them that it might be. Also, the handbooks, the commissioners passed a, through ARPA Fund, to update the handbooks. I don't know if you guys realized we probably have 20 or 30 amendments to the handbook, and it's been pretty clunky. And so, I just wanted to, that will be coming through. And I thought, what was that Laura, 16,000?

Laura said 10,000 and something.

Meeks said 10,000 and something, so that would be coming kind of through soon. Also, the county had a complaint of discrimination due to public access of the probation department. That was dismissed with no probable cause earlier last week. So, I just wanted to inform all of you. Also, there were three protective orders issued for Kirsten Wallace, Mayor McCoy and myself with the gentleman that's been, Mr. Kimbrell. Just wanted to let you guys know that has been issued. So, we'll see. I also noticed today that there's more signs within this hallway here about not recording, it looks like the Judges made an order, you can't record or televise in the hallways. So, don't record or televise in the hallway.

Missy said it says no recording.

Meeks said and then if they do, if they record, they're in trouble.

Missy said might think about re-writing that.

Meeks said well they just did.

Missy said might say you can record in the county council room, but you cannot record anywhere else on the third floor.

Meeks said I think, if you read that Judge's order, that's certainly how I read it.

Missy said primarily for people who are in a custody battle, and then they're recorded and their children are shown on something, and then suddenly.

Meeks said I've been telling the judges that for a while, Missy.

Missy said the person they're trying to protect from.

Meeks said I agree, 100% agree. But that's all I have. I just wanted to let you guys know that.

### **Art Moystner – Video issues**

Art Moystner said Dave, can I comment on that?

Dave said yeah, go ahead.

Art Moystner said well I would like to comment, with regard to the ordinance, and what I want everybody to understand is obviously, that's a commissioner issue, but I guess what I want everybody to understand on the ordinance, the county ordinance is an infraction. That's a simple citation. Whereas, the court has the authority to handle it simply through a contempt process. And, in my opinion, and I've said this all along, and I've talked to Meeks several times about it.

Meeks said I agree with Art.

Art Moystner said is, in my opinion, this isn't something that was put down by the Indiana Legislature. This isn't a legislative issue. This was something that was put down by the Indiana Supreme Courts, and it was mandated to the courts. So, it's not mandated anywhere else or any other direction. We did the ordinance based off of the court order. And that's fine. And I'll enforce the ordinance, but it's simply going to be the issuance of a citation.

Meeks said you can only give them a ticket.

Art Moystner said my officers will leave. That's as far as it goes.

Meeks said you hand them a ticket and leave.

Art Moystner said we don't escort them out. We don't anything like that. This was a judicial mandate from the Indiana Supreme Court.

Dave said there's been a lot of legislation discussion this past year on this issue. It's going to take several years to go through the process.

Art Moystner said it is.

Missy said this is interesting. This is Jefferson County.

Tom Chalfant said is there, I mean, an idea of increasing the fine over normal?

Meeks said it's up to \$2,500, so I don't know how much more it adds up to yet. It won't happen on the first offense.

Art Moystner said the thing I would also share with you when you're having a discussion about it is there's a considerable difference between a criminal justice center, which is comprised of a jail and courts, versus a courthouse and county office buildings, because I firmly believe that people have the right, and the Supreme Court, U.S. Supreme Court has ruled on it that they have a right to record their elected officials in the performance of their duties. So, to deny them access to the elected officials on the first and second floor, I don't believe you can do it in this courthouse.

Meeks said certain elected officials. The judges are elected too.

Art Moystner said well what I'm saying is the other is judicial.

Meeks said right.

Art Moystner said and the judicial branch is ruled for the courts. So, that's my opinion. I just want everybody to be aware of that.

Dave said well you know we are recording now.

Art Moystner said yes sir.

Dave said and we'll be, what is it, 2025, we have to post that to you tube.

Art Moystner said sure. I just wanted everyone to know what the Sheriff's office stand was.

Meeks said we have to put it on some sort of electronic media, yeah.

Missy said right. You can actually post it on your own web page.

Meeks said we can put it on our own website.

Missy said or you could create a Facebook page and put it on there. But again, Tom, what happens if.

Meeks said Facebook goes under. I think a better idea is to open your own one on there, on your own website, which that's what I think. That way you control, you tube doesn't control, you tube doesn't own it.

**Dave Lenkensdofer – Budget Hearings, General Fund to Rainy Day Fund, HSA Contributions**

Dave said I just had a few things to remind. Budget hearing is August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> being all day, 23<sup>rd</sup> will be whenever we complete. Usually, it's about half day. Also, at that time, I'd like to consider the General Fund to Rainy Day. We talked about this last month. We thought we'd hold off until the budget hearing to see where we're at and we just definitely need to increase that. I brought it up to county commissioners yesterday. And Mike came back and said that we might be able to partnership some with Rainy Day, General Fund, and Windfarm. So, we just need to increase that so we can cover in case of a catastrophe, especially an example is health care insurance, that we need to be around 3.3 million to, if something drastically happened. It can also be used for bridges, roads or anything else. We just definitely need to get there. At budget hearing, I'd like to consider raising the HSA contribution rates of \$250.00 for a single plan, \$500 for family additional. I brought that past the commissioners yesterday. Got the balance of funds report from Sherrie and it looks like the Windfarm monies have been over committed by about \$300,000, based off of that \$909,000 that we.

Tom Chalfant said I don't know why Mike didn't bring that up.

Dave said yeah, but we're thinking there may be a dual \$400,000.00 allocated EDIT and \$400,000 in the Windfarm. Is that correct Sherrie?

Laura said yeah, I need to go back through the minutes to figure out why it's in both places. Sherrie is using spreadsheets that were created prior to her. And so, I don't know why they're on both. So, I just need to go back through the minutes and figure that out, because I feel like, based off of our EDIT plan, it clearly is in the EDIT funds.

Dave said it definitely was.

Laura said so, I'm not sure it even should be in the Windfarm. But I need to go back through the minutes and make sure of that before we pull that out of there.

Dave said so, if that's the case, we'll be a 100,000 to the good.



Laura said and I will say too, that the \$909,000 was over a three-year period so, it's not like we're going to spend that this year.

Dave said yeah, but we can't over commit a project.

Laura said I understand what you're saying. I'm just letting them know that I'm not saying for or against, I'm just saying this is what was said.

Dave said so, that's pretty much all I had and brought up to the commissioners yesterday.

Todd said what's the time and place on the 22<sup>nd</sup>?

Dave said here at 8:30. It's in your packet, there's a worksheet.

Laura said yeah, there should be a schedule in there.

### **Citizen Comments (3-minute limit)**

Dave said anybody from the citizens comments?

Daniel Baker said I have a couple of things. If you guys haven't seen it already, we have been trying to bring cultivating community committees back together within the county. We have four different venues that we have going on. We actually did our last one last Thursday in Farmland. That went really well. We had quite a few individuals show up. We're going to have another one this Thursday from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. in Modoc, the Losantville area, the Losantville community building. The, another one on August 17<sup>th</sup> will be in Union City in the community room. The final one will be here in Winchester in the town square community center. And this is for those communities to come and be a part of that, and showcase what they have done in these committees. And then we're going to have a final county-wide one September 21<sup>st</sup>. That's going to be an all-day event to bring all of that back together, similar to what happened about two years ago, so that all of these communities can showcase what they've done and where we want to move to in the future. So, I just wanted to lay that in front of you. And then, I did have, I won't take an hour like I did yesterday in the commissioner's meeting. That wasn't my fault, anyway. So, I did have Lynnette Clark, she did accept a job in another child care director in Muncie. So, I just wanted to let you know if you have anybody, I will have an open position here soon. So, that will be posted. And then the Winchester, the sign at the Winchester Speedway, as you know, is up, but the electrical having some issues, I don't know if Missy, you have any update on that. But there's a little bit of issues getting electric connected, the meter box is out there, but, we just need to get the sign connected.

Missy said just waiting on AEP to do it.

Daniel Baker said and the meter put in that. They got the box up pretty quick, but the meter, itself. So, hopefully, soon we'll have that up. That is all I had. But I did want to, if you have any questions, let me know.

Dave said alright. Thanks Dan.

### **Adjournment**

Dave said seeing no other business today, I'd entertain a motion to adjourn.

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

Reviewed and accepted this 6 day of September, 2023.

RANDOLPH COUNTY COUNCIL

David Benkensofer

Beverly Fields

Jim Chalfont

~~Michael A. Bruce~~

Michael A. Bruce

John

J. [unclear]

ATTESTED:

Laura J Martin  
Laura J Martin, Auditor