

Randolph County Commissioners

February 2, 2026

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Hearing-ADA Transition Plan

Gary said okay, first, we will open up the public hearing for the ADA Transition Plan. Morning. If anybody that would like to speak, please sign up on the paper there, and also state you name and affiliation into the microphone.

Mitch Hansel said my name is Mitch Hansel. I'm with the USI Consultants and we are hired by the county to put together an ADA transition plan entitled VI Implementation Plan. And we have been working on that with Joe Copeland, Area Title VI and ADA coordinator for the last couple of months. And we put together the deficiencies that we've identified and then just updated policies and things of that nature. So, we were just, if there's any comments from the public about any obstacles. If there are any questions that the public has about any obstacles that they've encountered while trying to do work with the county, they're certainly welcome to add comments to what we've identified and make sure that they get addressed or get put on the list.

Gary said okay, great. Tom, do you have any questions?

Tom said no.

Gary said Missy, do you have any questions?

Missy said no.

Gary said alright, if you don't mind just sitting off the side there, still on the camera so, we'll see if there're any questions you could help us answer to the public if there is any in public. Would anybody in attendance today like to come up, sign up and have a 3-minute statement about the ADA transitional plan? You have to come forward. You have to come up on this right here. Morning Todd.

Todd Holaday said okay. I just wanted to ask if we could use this microphone, because we can't hear out of that microphone?

Gary said okay. Thank you, Todd. Anybody else in attendance today? Alright, seeing nobody coming forward, we can not officially close the public hearing. Somebody would somebody make a motion to close the public hearing on the ADA Transition Plan?

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

Gary said thank you, sir.

Gary said stay right there, because we're going to go, now we'll open up the general commissioners meeting.

Meeks said I did have a question. When will that ordinance be ready to be passed, or do you know?

Mitch Hansel said I have it now if you want to pass it today.

Laura said I haven't given it a number or anything.

Mitch Hansel said oh, okay.

Meeks said could you email it to Laura?

Mitch Hansel said sure.

Meeks said then we can then have it passed at our next meeting. Or does it need to be passed today, or do you know?

Laura said Joe's here.

Mitch Hansel said let's see here. INDOT requested that we update the plan by the 16th. But we can get them the information that they requested and then have the resolution and the ADA passed. So, we can get them everything but the signed resolution by the 14th, I'm sorry, of February.

Gary said no harm to the county whatsoever, to pass it on the 16th?

Mitch Hansel said no.

Gary said alright. Joe Copeland, do you mind coming up please?

Joe Copeland said Joe Copeland, ADA & Title VI Coordinator.

Gary said and highway engineer.

Joe Copeland said and highway engineer.

Gary said do you have anything that you can see that would prevent us from waiting until the next meeting to pass this ordinance?

Joe Copeland said the email I received from INDOT said that they wanted all this information by the 16th.

Mitch Hansel said February 14th.

Joe Copeland said 14th, yeah. And how strict they're going to be with that, I don't know. But they haven't given us a whole lot of time to get it done.

Mitch Hansel said 30 days, yeah.

Joe Copeland said yeah, so, I mean if we need to wait and then just after you sign it, then we can send it in to INDOT at that time.

Meeks said do you have a copy of it?

Mitch Hansel said I sure do.

Meeks said I mean, we can add the number to it later. I'd hate to jeopardize funding for that.

Laura said right.

Meeks said it's a resolution. It certainly looks like the ones we've done in the past, which just incorporates the new changes. I think I'd pass it and have Laura put a resolution number on it and then get it emailed out to everybody later today.

Gary said okay.

Mitch Hansel said and then I just do have some documents I need signed from the transition plan, itself, basically stating that you, your policies of non-discrimination, et cetera, et cetera.

Gary said what you say this was?

Mitch Hansel said these are statements within the plan itself, about basically the county doesn't discriminate and the county statements on accessibility for everybody within the county et cetera.

Meeks said yeah, these are fine.

Gary said do we pass those independently?

Meeks said I would just pass them all at the same time. Pass the resolution and then give authority for you to sign these, which just says that you guys don't discriminate.

Gary said okay. I think we're ready. So, we have a resolution 2026-, the Auditor will assign the very next number to it, the resolution by Randolph County Indiana appointing the Americans Disability Act, ADA, Title VI coordinator and adopting the procedures. Somebody like to make a motion to approve this resolution?

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

Gary said and now we have statements of compliance. Somebody like to make a motion that I sign in behalf of Randolph County?

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

Mitch Hansel said yep and just to back up, the ADA transition plan and Title VI plan are obviously required by the Federal Government, but the state, as a recipient of Federal funds has to make sure that

everybody that needs distribute funds to, also comply with those requirements so. To receive Federal and now State funds, we have we have to have an updated Title VI and ADA Plan almost every year.

Gary said every year?

Mitch Hansel said the Title VI every year, the ADA every three years.

Joe Copeland said my understanding is Federal Government changed some wording.

Mitch Hansel said in the Title VI assurances, yes. So, we submitted something for Title VI before the October 1st deadline. But since they made changes, they are asking us to update the Title VI assurance language to come into the compliance. So, we have those changes in that document.

Gary said do you see anymore action Randolph County needs to take right now?

Mitch Hansel said we just identified some issues and some buildings and some things like that so, yep.

Gary said oh yeah,

Missy said when will we get a report on those? Will we get a report?

Mitch Hansel said yes, you will get a report. I'll have a hard copy and I will have an electronic copy that I can email to Joe and to Laura and then yep, you will be good to go, and we just need to update a couple of things and re-submit it October 1st the Title VI and then stay in compliance.

Gary said thank you.

Mitch Hansel said absolutely.

Gary said anything else, Tom?

Tom said no.

Gary said Missy?

Missy said no.

Gary said thank you. Thank you, Joe.

Joe Copeland said Mitch, do we need to prioritize those problems that we had?

Mitch Hansel said I've got a priority list in there, yes.

Joe Copeland said you have a priority?

Mitch Hansel said Priorities one, two and three, yes.

Joe Copeland said okay.

Mitch Hansel said uh huh, yep.

Meeks said so, how did they did it in the past, they'll give you, they'll tell you what things you have to get done.

Mitch Hansel said correct. These are what we've identified.

Meeks said yeah, sooner.

Mitch Hansel said building superintendent, worked with, so some of the issues identified were on the bridges. So, when you apply for rehabbing the bridges, improve the sidewalks and things of that nature on those bridges. So, it's a matter of as you're making improvements to your facilities, I mean, your beautiful courthouse is all ADA compliant for the most part and yep, no issues. But as you upgrade other buildings, make sure that they meet those requirements as well.

Meeks said when we were brand new we weren't in compliance. They found things wrong, just to let you guys know that. We fixed them.

Joe Copeland said the bridge, the biggest bridge with the highest cost, is bridge 308. And we're working on designs to replace it.

Gary said which one is 308?

Joe Copeland said Short Street.

Gary said Short Street.

Mitch Hansel said can I get copies of those or can you email me those?

Laura said I'll email.

Mitch Hansel said perfect.

Laura said thank you.

Mitch Hansel said thank you so much.

Council's update

Gary said next on the agenda, council update. I know Todd's here. Are you the updated, Todd?

Todd Holaday said no.

Missy said Larry is in the back also.

Gary said is Larry back there? Who's coming to give the update, or is there one?

Larry Preston said I am. I don't have any, but I'll make it official.

Gary said okay. Morning, Larry.

Larry Preston said good morning. Larry Preston, Randolph County Council. We don't have an update because obviously, the first commissioner meeting of the month. I would like to reiterate Missy's

comments about thanks to the county and the towns for all the snow removal, especially to the churches, especially to our church and just wanted to say big kudos, and that's it. Any questions?

Gary said Tom, any questions?

Tom said no.

Gary said Missy?

Gary said I do not. Thank you, Larry.

Larry Preston said thanks for Meeks for letting IU win the national champion.

Meeks said I was there. It was great.

Rhoda Davis – Request for Grant Application

Gary said next, Rhoda.

Rhoda Davis said good morning. You want me to sign in?

Gary said no, that's public hearing. If you would set that aside please, all the way over. Yeah, just identify yourself for the public.

Rhoda Davis said okay. Rhoda Davis, executive director of Randolph County Community Corrections.

Gary said okay.

Rhoda Davis said and I am here to request for grant application from the Indiana Department of Corrections. There should be no changes for the calendar year 2027. We're still requesting the same amount.

Gary said okay. \$218,700?

Rhoda Davis said uh huh.

Gary said anybody have any questions for Rhoda on this? Somebody like to make a motion to approve the Community Corrections to go for a grant?

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

Gary said anything else, Rhoda?

Rhoda Davis said that's it.

Missy said I just, could you mention the ankle bracelets, the change you're going to make? I think that's pretty interesting.

Rhoda Davis said uh well, yes. I am in some talks with some vendors. We have been trying out some different monitoring equipment. Some nice updates and also closer to home. The vendor that we use now is in California. So, we have been working with them in contracts. And I did send one over to Meeks for a review and then I'm in talks with them to fix a couple of things that he noticed, and they're

very okay with what I'd asked. And I just needed to sit down with them and make sure that those things are resolved and that we have, it's actually going to lower our price for the monitoring and the devices are a lot better than what we have right now. So, we're in the talks about. And once I get that contract to where we like it, then I'll bring it back to you to sign.

Gary said okay. Got anything else, Missy?

Missy said huh uh.

Gary said Tom?

Tom said no.

Gary said me neither. Thank you, Rhoda.

Rhoda Davis said Alright. Thank you.

Debra Johnting – Zoning Ordinance amendments 2026-04 & 2026-05, 2026-06 and 2026-07

Gary said next up, Debra Johnting, Zoning Ordinance amendments.

Debra Johnting said Debra Johnting, Randolph County Area Planning Director.

Gary said so, what is going on?

Debra Johnting said so, we recycled the ordinances and Scott Fisher's ordinance inadvertently contained a condition that should not have been in there. So, we needed to correct the first. Those first three are just corrections.

Gary said 04, 05 and 06?

Laura said no, 5, 6 and 7 are those three.

Gary said or, 5, 6 and 7.

Laura said it was an 04, I'm not sure, it's different. 04 is different.

Debra Johnting said 5, 6 and 7. And nothing that he did or we just missed it. In 11 years, this is the first time we.

Gary said pardon me?

Debra Johnting said in 11 years, this is the first one that we've missed something.

Gary said okay. This doesn't, there's no issue with what Scott Fisher is trying to do?

Debra Johnting said nope, not at all.

Gary said this is just a procedural correction?

Debra Johnting said that was in there, we missed it, and we caught it.

Gary said okay. So, we need to go through all three readings in order to approve this. What was the mistake?

Debra Johnting said it says in there, in the ordinance it reads on December 1st, Ordinance 2025-15 contained a provision indicating the zoning reference parcel would revert back to Ag Limited at the time the business is abandoned or sold. This provision, the restriction was not intended or recommended by the Area Planning Commission.

Gary said okay.

Debra Johnting said that was taken from another ordinance that we.

Gary said okay. I understand. Tom, do you have any questions on this?

Tom said I do not.

Gary said Missy?

Missy said no.

Gary said Meeks, are we allowed to do all three of them at the same time?

Meeks said I'd do all three of them at the same time with the three different readings.

Gary said we have Ordinance number 2026-05, 06, and 07, ordinances to repeal Ordinance 2025-15 and amend the zoning map of Randolph County, Indiana. Somebody like to make a motion to pass all three of these ordinances on the first?

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

Gary said would somebody like to make a motion to suspend the rules, have 2nd and 3rd reading and passage on the same day?

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

Gary said somebody like to make a motion to adopt Ordinance 2026-05, 2026-06 and 2026-07?

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

Gary said okay, next?

Debra Johnting said I have a second request, APC 2026-1-C for Stormy Ridge Roofing, request to rezone a portion, about 4 acres of a field to build a roofing business. It's from Ag Limited to C3.

Gary said Tom, you were at that meeting?

Tom said I have no problems with that.

Gary said no problem.

Missy said I was there too. I have no problems with it.

Gary said okay. Somebody like to make a, before we pass this, is there anybody here that would like to speak to this ordinance? Okay. Would somebody like to make a motion to approve this ordinance of the first reading, Ordinance 2026-04, an ordinance to amend the zoning map of Randolph County, Indiana?

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

Gary said these type of ordinances, we always let them pass to the next meeting, to the next meeting. So, do you have a problem not passing on the same day?

Tom said no.

Gary said Missy?

Missy said no.

Gary said okay. Anything else?

Debra Johnting said I have a question.

Gary said yes?

Debra Johnting said we have request from the board of commissioners to remove language from the Unified Zoning Ordinance. In that meeting, the APC has gone in a different perhaps simpler, safer direction. Do we need a new request from the commissioners, Meeks?

Meeks said I think when we request it, then you guys could look at it and then come back and say.

Debra Johnting said bring back the ordinance at the next?

Meeks said bring back what you brought back and then we can make, I guess you could make a new request, but I'm not sure we need it.

Gary said I'm not either.

Meeks said but why don't we make it, and so, we have a clean record.

Gary said somebody like to make a motion to make a request?

Meeks said I think the request would be to have the Area Plan bring back whatever they have come up with.

Gary said okay. Somebody like to make a motion to request Area Planning to bring back with us what they come up with to solve the same solution that we were looking for?

Missy said I'd make that request that you update with new language that, and bring it back to us the next meeting.

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

Meeks said I think that would be good, right? I mean, that's what you.

Gary said yeah, and I have asked Debra, it resolves the same issue, minus tearing up a bunch of ordinances.

Debra Johnting said and including people who you're not really trying to help that might get in.

Gary said okay.

Debra Johnting said thank you.

Gary said thank you.

Beth Kreig – Collection agency services

Gary said next Beth Kreig, Collection agency services. Good morning.

Beth Kreig said good morning. Okay, Beth Kreig, chief probation officer of Randolph County Probation. And I have provided, I think I emailed it over to Laura, and I think it went to Meeks, provided a contract, although he refers to it as an assignment for collection services with Atlas Collection. We're looking to, or I'm looking to work on some of those older fee collection cases, kind of clean it up, get them turned over to collection. So, we're just at the beginning stages, getting started. So, have to make some other adjustments with some of our in-office paperwork. But it's a start here.

Gary said okay. Meeks, do you see any problems at all with this?

Meeks said Atlas is a good company. I mean, I think I said that in my email.

Beth Kreig said I had researched out with some other departments to find out what companies they were using, and Atlas was the one that they kept referring me to, so.

Gary said okay. Alright, Tom, anything?

Tom said no.

Gary said Missy?

Missy said no.

Gary said somebody like to make a motion to approve this contract for collection services from Atlas?

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

Gary said is there a signature spot for?

Meeks said no, there're a lot of blanks in there. They're going to have to go and fill that out.

Beth Kreig said yes.

Meeks said then come back to you.

Beth Kreig said I believe the way I, Mr. Thomas and I had talked about it was once I did this, then I'm going to get back in contact with them, and get the blanks filled out. So, do you want to see it again once it's filled in?

Gary said yeah.

Meeks said once the blanks are filled out, just send it to Laura. They'll get it.

Gary said anything else?

Beth Kreig said no sir.

Gary said anybody have anything for Beth? Thank you.

Ed Thornburg – Utility Agreement

Gary said Ed Thornburg, utility agreement. Morning, Ed.

Ed Thornburg said morning. Ed Thornburg, County Surveyor. Have a utility agreement from Comcast to do some work at 2578 North County Road 100 West. Putting in a box and a drop.

Gary said work order 28-05, do you recommend it?

Ed Thornburg said yeah.

Gary said we have a recommendation from the surveyor. Somebody like to make a motion to approve work order 28-05?

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

Ed Thornburg said thank you very much.

Gary said thank you.

Gary Moore – EMS Fee Schedule

Gary said Gary Moore, EMS Fee schedule. Good morning.

Gary Moore said I think mine will be fast too. Good morning. Did you just want me to get this together for an amendment request to come back?

Gary said yeah, has to be put in an ordinance form.

Gary Moore said okay.

Gary said you could go ahead and, did you identify who you are?

Gary Moore said yeah, Gary Moore, EMS director, sorry.

Gary said tell the public what you're requesting.

Gary Moore said yeah, going to request a, propose an ordinance amendment for our uniform fee schedule to include a fee for treat and release. We have just a couple different illnesses that we can actually treat and release through our medical director. One of the biggest one is diabetic. We can actually start an IV, give what's called D50 and they come around and they're more alert, then we can have them sign and that's called treat and release. So, our billing company has written me a letter, actually sent it to the previous director 4 or 5 months ago, that we can propose an amendment to bill for this service.

Gary said alright. And this just allows to bill for insurance if they have insurance?

Gary Moore said yeah, yeah, yeah. And I would like to do what's called a soft bill if we can, in the ordinance, can take what the insurance pays, so we don't pass it on to our residents of the county to incur any financial, anymore financial burden if we can.

Gary said okay. What do you guys think?

Missy said I think it's a great idea.

Gary said Tom?

Tom said I do too.

Gary said somebody like to make a motion to have him amend the fee schedule and get this in ordinance form for us?

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

Gary said thank you. What else?

Gary Moore said that's it. Anything for me?

Jim Nunez & Angie Martin – Randolph County Tourism, Wicks car show permission

Gary said Jim Nunez, Angie Martin, Randolph County Tourism, Wicks car show permission.

Angie Martin said good morning. Angie Martin, Randolph County Tourism director. Jim Nunez, president. So, we just had two things we kind of wanted to go over with you guys. One, we have the tourism commission update. So, as you guys know, you guys have three appointed commission members. One recently fell off. And so, the one that we are suggesting for you guys is Jimmy Wyman, out of Parker. We do try to kind of get people from all over our county so they can come in and help us market Randolph County the best we can. So, we do need approval for Jimmy to be on the commission.

Gary said okay, we'll take care of that right now. Anybody have any problems with Jimmy Wyman taking that position?

Missy said no.

Tom said no.

Gary said I do not.

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

Gary said thank you.

Angie Martin said wonderful. Thank you so much. You do have the list of all of our commission members. So, everyone that's on there is now agreed and approved. So, this will be our slate for the upcoming year and you will see some of our commission members are until next years, because every 2-year thing. So, there's that, and then you also should have received the list of the accomplishments for 2025 for Randolph County Tourism. We had a very, very busy year, especially since we didn't start until

mid-March. So, we were kind of you know, behind the ball when I came in for the entire year anyhow. But, we did accomplish a lot of really wonderful things. We are very excited for 2026. We have lots of new events and groups that are coming to Randolph County. So, hopefully, you'll be seeing and hearing more about that. We did update all of our marketing equipment for trade shows, and then just are marketing in general. We've redone our logo and everything. So, Jim should have handed you the new visitors guide. The thing we like about that is, as you know, as soon as things come out in print, they're already outdated. So, we did that in house, designed it ourselves and then just, we're having it printed so, that way we had a smaller amount printed so, that way, when things you know, change, we could update it and use it for events. We do plan on 2026 trying to create an actual visitors' guide that has you know, more than just our restaurants and things like that, has everything that we have on there. We've been updating our website and our virtual tour, the things, they take a lot of time. So, be patient with us because there're a lot that goes into it and I'm not a web designer. So, it's kind of you know, learning as we go. We're very excited that we are again in the festival guide. We have not been in the festival guide for the past 3 years. So, we do have festivals in the festival guide. We are back with Indiana Foodways Alliance. We are back with East Region. So, just lots of good things going you know, in a good direction. We were in great hands before, so it was a good jumping off point to kind of get things going for now we're going into 2026. We do have lots of things that are on the plate so we plan on, Jim and I was talking about doing another update for you guys in maybe 6 months just kind of letting you kind of know what we've been up to, and just so you guys can kind of get a pulse on what Tourism has been doing because we have a lot of good things in the works. Do you have any questions for me, and then I'll let Jim take over?

Gary said I do not, thank you. Tom?

Tom said no.

Gary said Missy?

Missy said nope.

Gary said Jim?

Jim Nunez said one of the other things too is that we plan on going to town to town to find out more in depth in their towns and what they offer, so we can have this go beyond the 4 walls of Randolph County because we learn by seeing what happens at other counties. They go to state fairs and stuff. Angie has taught me a lot of stuff as her previous, she was with us before, is that's our job, is to advertise out there beyond our 4 walls, and even other states. And we noticed that when she was there before, she went to Ohio and brought some of the stuff, information from Ohio. And we were in Ohio for a while. So, those are kind of exciting things that's happening. Of course, the biggest exciting thing that we're going to be start celebrating is 250 years of United States. And we have these little hidden treasures that we have like Winchester is going to be celebrating 208 years of being platted, this coming year the 4th of July. So, one of those, you know, there's a lot of hidden treasures in all of county. So, we're going to be starting hitting those kind of things. So that's what. That's it.

Gary said thank you. Anybody have anything for Jim?

Tom said no.

Gary said Missy?

Missy said no.

Gary said I do not either. Thank you.

Jim Nunez said so, on, I'm also involved with Wick's car show. It's going to be our 4th time up town, and I'm asking your permission if we can use the, if you'll pass these to them, is our 13th annual car show. And it's Saturday the 23rd of May. We locked in that date because of the Memorial, it's usually pretty busy other places, but not here. So, we're asking if we can use the west, east and south side courthouse lawn and the bicentennial plaza. So, that's what it is. We've asked this for our 4th time. This is our 4th time up town. And it gives a lot of sites and things for downtown. And one of the things that makes unique about the Winchester car show is that we give bus rides to Mrs. Wicks from downtown to there and back. It's kind of unique. Plus, we have pie eating contests and everything else. So, it's something people you know, plus we give 6-foot trophies away.

Gary said okay. We have a request Wicks will be hosting its 13th annual car show, the car show will be held on the Saturday, the 23rd of May, 2026, and you're asking for the west, east and south side courthouse lawns and also the bicentennial plaza. Somebody like to make a motion to approve this?

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

Gary said anything else?

Missy said you know, Union City has a pretty big car show, so does Modoc. So, if you could get that posted somewhere so it's not all just about Winchester. I mean it is, it is, you have a lot about others, but it would be nice to really promote those two.

Angie Martin said we have been reaching out to the different town halls and asked them, we actually asked everyone at the end of last year to give us their information for this coming year. Some did, some didn't. Some are honestly kind of slow to get us the information. We normally find out some like right before. But we have been really trying hard to reach out, which is another reason why we really focused on making sure we have board members, commission members, that are all throughout, because that's kind of part of their responsibility is making sure that they're getting information from their area and giving it to us also.

Jim Nunez said and we've posted out there on the sign too.

Angie Martin said yes.

Missy said but a lot of, some people from Farmland don't come this way or whatever, Farmland has quite a few activities and Modoc does also.

Angie Martin said Farmland has been really good about giving us their information.

Jim Nunez said and now that we have an active board member from Farmland.

Gary said Parker.

Jim Nunez said Parker, excuse me, which is.

Gary said it makes a difference in

Missy said yeah, sure does.

Jim Nunez said he's very active in that area. We're excited to have him on.

Gary said okay. Thank you.

Brad Dilger, EDP - Riverstart Solar Park IV and Riverstart Solar Park II

Gary said next Brad Dilger, Austin Kirch for EDP. Good morning.

Brad Dilger said morning commissioners.

Gary said are you alone?

Brad Dilger said just me. Austin wasn't able to make it out today.

Gary said identify yourself.

Brad Dilger said say again?

Gary said you have to identify yourself.

Brad Dilger said oh yeah, Brad Dilger, EDP Renewables. Just here to give some general information about projects that we have. One that just finished up, Riverstart IV, I was in here the middle of December last year just talking about the progress. And we did achieve commercial operation late December, and then you guys may have seen the press release that went out, I think it was last week. So, as we continue to work toward final completion there, we still, they're still doing some final checks and you know, there will be, well we still need to remove the signs that were put up for the ordinance revision. They were waiting to have fair weather so they're not on the side of the road while there's snow piled up. So, that'll come as the roads clear up and snow melts. Final road repairs will happen again when the ground thaws out, we see how the roads have fared, where repairs need to be made and then.

Gary said you say thawed out, are you waiting for the frost to come clear out?

Brad Dilger said we're going to wait to see like when it's advisable. I'll continue to talk to Jay about that and when we need to go through and look at what needs to be repaired and then similar to Riverstart III, we're going to wait until warmer weather, summertime temperatures to do our final repairs to bring it back to the same, if not better condition than when we left it. So, still a little bit of work to do on Riverstart IV, but it is producing energy and yeah, it's been great to see that production over these, well last week there were a few sunny days. So, it was great to see that going on. Any questions about Riverstart IV?

Gary said not for me. Tom?

Tom said no.

Gary said Missy?

Missy said nope.

Brad Dilger said so, Riverstart II, it's that project we've been talking about for years and finally have made it around to you know, we have the signed generator interconnection agreement now with PJM. So, we have the timing associated with that. And because of the ordinance revisions, I just wanted to get this again on the agenda, and so we can talk about it. So, the notification that I shared with Laura and I believe was shared to you guys, that should arrive to Deb today via FedEx and then you know, we'll go through that due process of figuring out when the public hearing is going to be, sending out all those notices. So, we'll work with Deb in the planning office to figure out all the landowners and just the language that needs to go with it. But generally, Riverstart II is a 125-megawatt project. So, Riverstart IV is a 150. Riverstart III was a, is a 100, so it's right there in the middle of the two, with an expected COD of 2028. So, that's just the general information that we have there. And again, we're going to be sharing more of that information throughout this process and I'm here to answer any questions if you have any at this point.

Gary said I don't have any. Thank you though. Tom?

Tom said no.

Gary said Missy?

Missy said nope.

Gary said thanks for your constant updates. I appreciate it.

Brad Dilger said yeah, yeah. Thank you.

Sydnee Cseresznyes-RCU update

Gary said next Sydnee for RCU update.

Sydney Cseresznyes said do we need to sign in?

Gary said no, you don't sign in. That was for public hearing.

Sydney Cseresznyes said Sydney Cseresznyes with Randolph County United. I have Ruthie Rhodes with me. She is our office administrator and for the purposes of this presentation, I wanted her here because she was a pretty key player in getting to where we're at today with what we're presenting on. So, I wanted to update the commissioners. Randolph County United since I joined in last May, as you guys have heard me say, have looked under the hood, if you will, at some of the resources that we have to provide to our business owners. And there were 3 sets of either grants or revolving loan programs that we had that were ran through the Federal government or the Office of Community and Rural Affairs, which is

a State agency. Those, all of those grants pre-date COVID. Some are over 10 years old. And so, we are in the time period now where we can have those funds released into our oversight, if you will. And so, one that we got approved to be released was the OCRA, OCRA Revolving Loan fund. With that loan being released, it came with a set of criteria. So, that loan program was given to or for RCU to administer as it related to COVID. And so, COVID, dealing with COVID, there were COVID preparation. And so, a lot of that went to PPE equipment, people being able to keep open their doors. And so, now, there's this post COVID era. It's new normal, if you will, that we're in, that's labeled preparedness. And so, while these funds have been released into our care, we do have some parameters we have to follow. One being that they do have to speak to COVID, the preparedness side. And it has to be a grant. So, we cannot turn that into our own revolving loan program. We have to spend the entire funds down. We were awarded \$190,000.00 from OCRA and we had a matching grant of \$50,000.00. We have a lot of those loans that were forgiven, 50% I believe, is what it was. So, we're finalizing those numbers, but we're going to have just over \$100,000.00 to award to businesses in the community. Again, it has to speak to COVID preparedness. So, I'll go through the program overview right now, and then part of the application process. And then I'll talk about what this rollout looks like over the next 30 days. So, the program overview, it's Randolph County United Business Support Grant program, that, it will be the title of it. Randolph County United in collaboration with the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs has modified its COVID Era revolving loan fund program into a grant program designed to support small businesses as they plan for the future. Originally created to assist businesses during the pandemic, the RLF now has been repurposed to help local business owners make targeted investments that would allow them to continue operation or minimize disruption if another public health emergency or shut down were to occur. This grant prioritizes projects that help businesses adapt their operations, protect their workforce and insure continuity in uncertain circumstances. So, our grant details, our maximum award amount will be up to \$25,000.00, so, we by no means, have to award that to any one business, but, in an effort to allow us to spend the money down, if there was a business with a larger project, we wanted to have that flexibility to give that to them. There is no match required. The funds must be used within 12 months of the award. The recipient has to provide a brief impact summary. They are required to do a closeout including submitting any invoices. And the grant may support multiple qualifying purchases. So, I'll go through a list of eligible expenses. This is not an exhaustive list by any means. This is just examples. So, creating remote tool, such as laptop, software, cloud based to some secure internet access for your business, creating remote friendly job roles, like converting an admin or sales position to a remote position. The qualifier there is that the employee must still live in Randolph County. They cannot live outside of the county. Say, if you have a retail space, and if you wanted to create an Ecommerce platform or online booking or scheduling system, that is an eligible expense as well. Contactless list payment or curbside pickup systems, cyber security improvement, cross training employees for operational flexibility, PPE and sanitation equipment, business continuity planning, which includes doing it, hiring a consultant to help you with strategic planning, long term for your business and emergency response are continuity related certifications or training. Ineligible expenses are rent and mortgage, utilities, legal fees, tax or tax payments, travel unrelated to planning and then personal expenses. The eligible applicants that can apply, and this was actually required by OCRA, it has to be a for-profit business physically located in Randolph County, has been in operation for at least 12 months. It has to be in good standing with the state with no outstanding taxes or violations and cannot have received prior funding through Randolph County's COVID Era RLF program. So, that is an overview of the program. I want to talk a little bit about what this rollout is going to look like. So, we are spending the entire month of February updating bodies like yourself. We'll be at the Winchester tonight. We'll be at the County Council meeting tomorrow. We'll be at Union City's council update on February 9th, and we are working with the town councils as well. Outside of in person updates, we will have emails to all of the clerks,

both at the town municipal and county level, notifying them about this program. We will have both an in person physical and online application so people will be able to come to our office, print it off online or just fill one out online. The flyers will be posted in the courthouse, in our offices, local billboards, your libraries, frequent places that people visit in the community. We'll work with our tourism staff as well to see if there is marketing opportunity there. The links will be posted to our website, all of our social media pages, will go out via email, yodel. There will be newspaper ads and radio spots that we will pay for as well. So, we're trying to exhaust all avenues so that the public is aware of this and that no stone is left unturned. So, that's the marketing side of it and we're spending the month of February doing that. This program will roll out on March 1st. The application window will be 60 days. So, we have April 30th closing date. We will have an internal review committee, much like we did with the READI funding. It will be comprised of our staff and a couple members of our board. It'll be a blind review process. So, I will be the one accepting applications. And then when we have a scoring rubric much like we did with READI that speaks to this application and the criteria, and the names will be blocked out to prevent any kind of biasness when grading these. And they will be scored, and then the committee will review and choose awards from there. So, we will spend the month of May doing that. I'm going to give us about 4 weeks to get that done, and hopefully with a June 1st award announcement. And from there, the way it should work is that you know a business, say they have contracted with someone to develop an Ecommerce Website, they can send us an invoice and they will be reimbursed for those expenses. And so those, much like most grant programs through the state, you have to provide some kind of invoice or proof of engagement. So, that is how we plan to roll it out. We wanted to update you guys. This is one of three we should be able to update you on this year. We have the USDA RLF Program that has been released into our oversight, but we're still developing the program requirements. That one has a little bit more flexibility, where we will allow to deploy those funds in a loan form. EDA, the government shut down put them significantly behind. So, we are still working on rolling that out. And so that's kind of our update there. We wanted, it's a pretty significant milestone I think, for Randolph County United. We have done a great job I think, about being a liaison for a lot of the businesses. I have a running list of businesses that I have talked to that are in need of, you know, interested in expanding or interested in starting a mobile part of their business. And you know, we've been able to refer them to a lot of the resources that the state has. But because of, as you guys know and experience this in your own budgets, that the state has a shortfall, and a lot of those grant programs that are there now will not be, may not be in the latter part of 26 and 27. So, my goal for RCU is to be a tangible asset where people can call us and apply. And so, we look forward to deploying some of these programs. And while I have the microphone, I did want to let you know that Ruthie and I officially submitted the Brownfield application as of last week. So, we, I think it's a pretty long runway we have until we find out if we're awarded. It won't be until like May. But that has been submitted to the EPA. So, we are making some moves I think and we thank you guys for supporting us, and I'm happy to answer any questions.

Gary said I don't support this. I made it clear in RCU board, I make it clear to the public, it's no way it can be fair. I just don't agree with just spending money because we have nothing else to do with it or the state wants to just throw the money away. Everybody that gets money will be happy and the rest of the county will be upset and think it's full of favoritism. I just don't think it's the right way to be spending the resources of RCU. All the time that's going to be spent on this to give money away instead of spending that amount of time on building economic development in Randolph County. This is just a pure giveaway, and I am totally opposed to it. And I don't think it makes sense. Tom?

Tom said if we don't do the program, does the money just get turned back into the state?

Sydnee Cseresznyes said it'll go to another community. And the way I look at it, so, the definition of economic development is kind of a wide umbrella. You have the chamber, you have tourism. It looks different in every community, and supporting small businesses, through our local economic development organization, is an element of economic development. And so, I think this will help businesses stay in Randolph County hopefully.

Gary said this giveaway?

Sydnee Cseresznyes said this program.

Gary said no way. Has nothing to do with it in my opinion. Missy?

Missy said I think for small businesses that amount of money can make a difference to them. I would hope, I know you will, I hope that there's somebody there to help out some of the smaller businesses who don't know exactly how to word things or how to write things before they get it back to you.

Sydnee Cseresznyes said we'll be there to assist with those questions.

Missy said yeah, that would be great. Maybe even a workshop.

Sydnee Cseresznyes said uh huh.

Missy said do we ever ask or do you ever ask for any financial like, well, can you give us the last 2 profit lines, because that might, I mean, not saying it has to make a difference, but you know if somebody's close and if they could just get that bump, and you know, there're things like, just like the weather in the last week and a half, has really, when you shut people down, small businesses, it makes a giant difference. I want to go forward for this simply because it's free money to us and I'm not going to turn down free money from the state to get something going. And so, it gives you a project to kind of help some of those people forward. I'd like to see some other people, other than just board members, maybe some other businesses, maybe possibly somebody from the Community Foundation, maybe one of their board members would say I would be glad to sit and look through this from an unbiased, I think an unbiased viewpoint or maybe something like, I didn't know that company even, or that business even existed, or whatever.

Sydnee Cseresznyes said that's, an absolutely, our internal committee can absolutely include outside board members. I think our board members are really good representatives of the community. I do believe we actually have a Community Foundation board member. And that's where the blind review comes into, is that it's a small town, and I think there was some questions raised in our board meetings about favoritism and this way, I think I'm in a good position to accept those applications and then make sure that when we review them, they're not from a who's applying, it's what they need and what their goals are.

Missy said so what was the vote of your board to go forward with this?

Gary said I was the only no vote.

Missy said oh, okay.

Gary said I don't know how many were there. And I'm still a no vote.

Missy said I understand your thinking, some of it.

Gary said it's not free, by the way. It's not free money. It's part of the national debt.

Missy said explain to me why it's not free money.

Gary said huh?

Missy said why?

Gary said it's not free because it comes from tax dollars. It's not free. Somebody paid for it.

Missy said yeah, but somebody.

Gary said the easiest thing in the world to do is to take somebody else's money and give it to somebody else when it's not yours.

Missy said but, in communities that do expand and do grow, they get a lot of grant money to come in. So, if it's the entire state of Indiana's tax money going into this pool, I want to take our fair share that we can get out of this. I do know that a lot of, at least the Indiana Bond Bank, if you ever want to use them to go through a financing or the county does, or any city does, to have accepted and to be working on things like this or things that you have to be able to list on there.

Sydnee Cseresznyes said that was the same with our Brownfield grant application. We had to show that we were able and have managed these kinds of programs before.

Missy said yeah, yeah, exactly, yeah. So, I'm in favor.

Sydnee Cseresznyes said just wanted to update you guys and I appreciate it. Thank you.

Gary said anything else?

Sydnee Cseresznyes said no. Thank you.

Missy said can I ask you one thing Sydnee, that's not on the agenda?

Sydnee Cseresznyes said yes.

Missy said so, what, here we are sitting here, we're a small county, what's it look like for us? I was at the state house, a little bit back so, what do you think? If you don't mind saying?

Sydnee Cseresznyes said well for legal reasons, I'm not your lobbyist, but I will be able to update you. So, we're in the 2nd half officially. The weather kind of pushed back deadlines. So, today is the House deadline. As far as, I'll talk about taxes, there's big LIT conversations.

Missy said yeah, we all want to hear it.

Sydnee Cseresznyes said yes. There's I think where they go with Senate Enrolled Act 1 and the changes that are going to be made from that, right now and it's called House Bill 1210. It's the Department of Local Government Finance Bill. It's going to be an omnibus tax bill. All of the LIT changes have been pushed back from 28 to 29. There're some unintended consequences like there are with every piece of legislation, that are being discussed. And I think the General Assembly is well aware of that. That bill is in the Senate now. I think the discussion for the next month and something that will be really important to look for is that you have this 2.9 countywide tax and you have the county who has the 1.2% and then this city, municipalities have the ability to have their own 1.2 and we have .4 for EMS. Well this county, there's discussion right now, the House at one point had available that said you know, if the county doesn't adopt the full 1.2 that the cities can adopt it. And there was no claw back for provision say if that you need that money for other services. And so, how that, where the authority is on that, I think is going to be a big part of the discussion over the next 4 weeks. And then the .4 EMS rate, it's now a fire and EMS rate, not just the fire rate.

Missy said so it spreads it out in less, and you get less in each. Is it going to be?

Sydnee Cseresznyes said yes. I don't think you can decouple fire and EMS though, you know, so it's kind of hard to do that. And I think that how to share that with municipalities and cities and towns, smaller cities and towns, is going to be part of the discussion.

Missy said right, yeah. Okay. Thanks.

Sydnee Cseresznyes said time will tell.

Missy said I know you have a lot going Thursday, Friday

Sydnee Cseresznyes said yes today my employees is down there today, so we've got some. And then township reform. I mean that's going to, we'll see where that goes, but that'll be a big factor in how things consolidate.

Missy said yeah. A giant factor for us.

Sydnee Cseresznyes said yeah, and where the money goes.

Missy said yeah, and I read all the bills this morning, last night and this morning, doing away with townships

Gary said anything else?

Missy said no, I'm done, sorry.

Gary said Tom?

Tom said no.

Gary said thank you.

Sydnee Cseresznyes said thank you.

Jim Martin(Jennifer Tarter) – Permission to use Courthouse lawn

Gary said Jim Martin.

Jennifer Tarter said I'm not Jim Martin.

Gary said hello.

Jennifer Tarter said good morning. I am Jennifer Tarter on behalf of Winchester Main Street. First, we are here just to thank the commissioners for allowing us to use the courthouse lawn and the first floor of the courthouse for our November 8th monument lighting. It was a huge success again. And we're excited for all our events in 2026. And then we thought, as a board, we would just compile everything for 2026. I think we had in the past, multiple committee members coming to you guys and asking for different events that they are heading, so this is a compiled list for use of the lawn for all of our farmers' markets. We've kind of been expanding on just a little bit of you know, I think we had a petting zoo and we had music and things like that sometimes to draw more people to our farmers' market. Our customer appreciation block party is on Franklin Street in June. We utilize just a portion of that, of that and for that event. And then our newest event that is coming back downtown is the mom baseball and apple pie this year for the 4th of July, so we're super excited about that. That is in its very early stages of planning but we're super excited, and we have a lot of people behind that are planning that. And then also the Main Street Festival again is coming this year. And then lastly, our soldiers' and sailors' monument which will be the only event that we do again utilize that first floor for warmth if needed, restrooms.

Gary said can I ask you a question real quick to get it just to get it off my mind?

Jennifer Tarter said yes, most certainly.

Gary said the Wick car show is on Saturday the 23rd and so is a farmers' market. Is there a conflicting issue there?

Jennifer Tarter said no. We always, we stay in our area. None of their vendors or the cars, I mean that's always been the same weekend every year.

Gary said okay. I didn't realize that. Okay.

Jennifer Tarter said they pretty much go around us. They're aware of our area and yes.

Gary said thank you.

Jennifer Tarter said yep. We work well together.

Gary said if you didn't, who would win?

Jennifer Tarter said I don't know. I don't know. No, we all, we all coexist down here on that first, and it helps our vendors too. Our vendors love it.

Gary said sure it does, yeah.

Jennifer Tarter said you know, we've got extra people down here, so. So, just like I said, I thought we would just come and give you the whole run down for the year at once.

Gary said get permission for all this at one time, right?

Jennifer Tarter said yeah, if possible.

Gary said somebody like to make a motion to approve these events and dates for the courthouse use and lawn?

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

Gary said there you go. Thank you.

Jennifer Tarter said thank you.

Missy said can I ask one thing, and maybe it isn't in your wheelhouse, but the Veterans banners have been very, very really appreciated. But, can, just could there be, face book is great and putting it on your page is great, but is there a way somehow to get it on the, maybe on the radio, maybe during, I know it sounds like, but.

Jennifer Tarter said as far as new banners, people that's getting new banners?

Missy said yes, how do I do this? I want to get my person put on there. How do I do it? Because a lot of them, they don't take the newspaper or maybe they don't, but just every way possible, yeah, to do that?

Jennifer Tarter said we try. We're trying. And it's grown.

Missy said yeah, oh, I know you do. I mean, I see it.

Jennifer Tarter said you know, we doubled our number from last year to this year.

Missy said I see it all the time, but a lot of older people who are maybe not on social media, yeah, just a thought. I was just thinking maybe at some of your farmers' markets if a brochure could be you know, made up or handed out, or you know, every way.

Jennifer Tarter said yeah, it's on our table. We try.

Missy said yeah, I know. And they really look, they really look great.

Jennifer Tarter said thanks Missy.

Missy said yeah, no problem.

Gary said James Strong.

Missy said at that Veterans Day program.

Gary said sorry, are you?

Missy said no, even at that Veterans Day program, you know, maybe hand, have somebody hand a little thing about hey, you want to know how to get a banner?

James Strong – Camp trinity update

Gary said okay, James Strong, Camp Trinity.

James Strong said I'm James Strong, Camp Trinity.

Paul Kirkpatrick said I'm Paul Kirkpatrick. I'm with Camp Trinity.

James Strong said I trust you all got your papers I sent out?

Missy said uh huh.

Gary said uh huh.

James Strong said I hope that was sufficient in explaining what we were desiring to do. We've got our current plans are probably 3 buildings. That little stretch of ground, 187 feet would give us sufficient space to do what we need to do. And, as it says in the paper, we were desiring that you guys would consider some possibility of us acquiring the 6.74 acres.

Gary said okay. Me, personally, I mean, I'm struggling with it.

James Strong said uh huh.

Gary said if we don't do that, what happens to Camp Trinity?

James Strong said uh.

Gary said I mean, is this a need or a want?

James Strong said it's a, it's a need and it's a want. If we don't get this property, we'll go on the other side of those buildings with a bulldozer and we'll take out 6 acres of trails and trees that we greatly desire to keep. That's our whole purpose with this. The engineer said it could be done. He didn't like it. We don't like it.

Gary said well I appreciate that truthful answer. I'm not struggling with your mission out there. It's just once we give the land away, we give the land away.

James Strong said yeah.

Gary said it's not totally gave away because you guys really can't, you can't buy it because then you'll own it, versus now you really can use Camp Trinity as a financial leverage. There're covenants on it.

James Strong said uh huh. Yeah.

Gary said and you really can't walk away with it. So, that helps me say okay, we'll make it a better camp and you guys are willing to do it, and the land is under the same covenants that the rest of the property that the county put on, would maintain.

James Strong said yes.

Gary said the other part I struggle with is if it's 3 or 4 years down the road before this gets done, are you going to take this 6.7 acres and collect the rent that we're already collecting on, because we'll be giving up valuable rent? I don't think it would be fair if the county said okay, we're going to go ahead and do this, it takes a long time, and then you guys take the rent off of it.

James Strong said we don't have any desire to get the rent. We only have .7 acres of the field now. But, I met the farmer that farms that. I told him he could that and until we needed it, it's there and he's planting the field. We don't.

Gary said what I'm talking about is Randolph County would lose the revenue while it sets idle.

Paul Kirkpatrick said is there a way to make that to, you know, I don't know how that would work. Since it wouldn't be totally ours under the, like the other, I think we have 30 years before it would actually switch hands, so if it would be under that covenant you called it, is there a way it could be wrote up that until we used it, I mean, just keep collecting it?

James Strong said yeah, and we wouldn't have any issue with that.

Paul Kirkpatrick said we don't, we're not trying to collect it. I mean, if he farms it, we don't have to mow it, you know. But, if we're going to expand according to David at Maze Engineering, we have to put those systems, we have to have somewhere really to go with them and it's either to the right or the left. We're not putting in the system tomorrow, but we do think that things are positioning themselves to head that direction. And in order for us, David told us, he said figure out where you're going to put the buildings, where that you think the septic would go on this, and find out if this spot is available, and if it is, then we go down there to him, he'll draw up the things to take to the donors and to the people, but we can't draw it up or have him do it until we know if that's going to be available or a possibility, if that makes sense.

Gary said right. It does.

James Strong said and we don't have an issue. Whatever we don't get used of that, you can still collect the rent from it. We don't have an issue with that.

Paul Kirkpatrick said I think it's like 30 years before it ever actually switches hands.

Gary said well it has to become part of the property. We had to give some land over after the first deal because the septic laid outside the property line. We don't want the septic to lay outside this property line. So, it would be an agreement of the sort, but. Okay. Tom?

Tom said I'm in favor of it. It's a big ask, you know, value-wise, but I think the programming they're doing out there and, to continue and expand, I think it's necessary to improve the septic. So, I would be in favor of it. I would, I do struggle with the timing, that if it's not going to happen for 2 or 3 years and then the other question is, coordinating with the farmer, when it transfers over, you know, if all of a sudden, 2 ½ years and in the middle of, there's a crop there you know, coming off and you're in a hurry to get the septic in, what happens there and who's paying?

Paul Kirkpatrick said yeah, we'll give the benefit to the farmer.

James Strong said we're not, when we say 2 or 3 years, if we could be out there tomorrow digging, we would be. We've got a lot of red tape to get through to get it done and we've got to raise money, which I believe we've got good chunk of that already available to us. So, when we say 2 or 3 years, that's, you know, it's going to take, we're spending 3 million dollars. So, this year, if we could get into that field and start, I'd like to have the pond dug before July if we could do that. I do understand that he's already signed a paper to rent that ground. He may not like it and that may hold us. We're not going to run in and try to run him off. We want to keep good neighbors. So, if he's got it spoken for, for this year or next year, we'll try to work with him. If not, then we'll wait until his contract is up, whatever we've got to do to make that work right, you know.

Paul Kirkpatrick said and I don't know how else to say it, I mean, we would love to just be able to, I remember we went through this when we first got the original campground, we would love to just be able to purchase it. But because of things around, we can't do that. I would love for you to say okay, well we'll just sell this. But like you said at the beginning, there's reasons we can't do that.

Gary said right.

Paul Kirkpatrick said so, this is the way we have to go. It almost makes you feel kind of like a beggar, but, that's not what it is.

Gary said no, but I think you should be prepared to earn it.

Paul Kirkpatrick said right. If we're going to move forward, if we're going to move forward, we just need to know that that would be available, an option for us to plan to put a septic.

Tom said I feel like you're earning it with the investment you're putting in with the property. That's a huge investment in what you're doing out there. That's where I'm at.

Gary said okay. Missy?

Missy said well I've been out there several times as you know. And not checking up or not, just out of curiosity, and I've been extremely impressed with what I've seen, particularly with the kids' camp that you guys do for that week. It's basically a big Bible school, a camp thing that well, I'm old, so, we used to go to those you know, for the week. I think it's a very positive thing for Randolph County, but we've, not the but, no, the but that I think you have to put, we have to get some revenue off of that from you guys because, as many people have told me, they're much in favor of this project, but how much are we going to give them? We gave that church all of that ground and that is worth a million dollars and what are we doing for other churches? I explained to some people who were asking for other churches that you're going to welcome them in as long as they do what you're asking them to do, take care of the facilities and you kind of head up on that. So, I'm in favor of it.

Gary said okay. I'm not opposed. I just want you to make it clear of why, which I think you have. There'll be some legal hurdles that you'll have to work with, our attorney will get involved in getting this correctly to the covenants of the other situation. There's going to be a survey involved. You willing to pay for the survey?

James Strong said yes.

Meeks said well, that's the first step. We would need a survey of anything you do, and then I don't know if you just do an option then, at that point, so when you're ready, you can exercise the option. The option agreement we're talking about what the farmer thinks, you don't, the county would own it until option is exercised.

Gary said okay.

Meeks said I haven't seen the letter, but that's what I was, I think.

Gary said you can have it. I've got one, here. I guess what we'll do here today then, is make a motion to allow you the option to acquire the land.

Meeks said I think you would proceed with getting the documents together for that instead of authorizing. And one of those is going to be the survey. That's going to be a big one. So, I would tell you folks to order the survey now.

James Strong said okay.

Gary said okay.

Meeks said if, whatever we do, if it falls through or doesn't fall through, you need a survey.

James Strong said yeah, okay.

Meeks said and that's going to, it's a cost on you, but it's.

James Strong said we don't mind.

Gary said the motion would need to be?

Meeks said to allow them to obtain a survey of the area because we will have to have a survey to get any documents together.

Tom said I'll make a motion to allow them pursuit of the survey and move forward with the documentations.

Gary said we have a motion to say that again?

Tom said allow then to do the survey and move forward with the documentation for the transfer at their cost.

Gary said we have a motion. Do we have a second?

Missy said I'll second.

Gary said we have a motion and a second. The only thing on further discussion I have is I've never been against what you're doing. I just want to make sure it's the right thing for the county and it seems that it is, and I feel comfortable that we're getting the right thing. So, all those in favor, signify by saying aye.

All aye votes. Motion carried.

Gary said anything else?

James Strong said that'll do us.

Gary said thank you.

James Strong said thank you.

Gary said you've done a lot of work out there. I know what it looked like before you started.

Randolph County Promise update

Gary said next up is the Community Foundation. Every body should identify themselves for the public.

Tom Osborn said I'm Tom Osborn, on the Community Foundation board.

Gary said thank you.

Linda Wood said I'm Linda Wood. I'm the Randolph County Promise Coordinator.

Ashley Stephen said Ashley Stephen, Community Foundation of Randolph County, the Community Grants Operation Manager.

Tom Osborn said so, we're here for basically, 3 reasons and one of them is not to ask for money. So, that's a good thing, right? But, we'd like to just introduce ourselves. The last time we were here Cathy Stephen was here.

Gary said yep.

Tom Osborn said she is still an active promoter and very supportive of the program. She just wasn't able to attend this morning. And then Karen Dillow was here. She was our Promise Coordinator at that time. She's, had to step down, so Linda has taken her place. So, just wanted to put the new faces in front of you. The main reason we're here is just to thank you for your continued support as we try to partner with the school corporations to encourage young people to think about college education and that doesn't necessarily mean a 4-year college or even a 2-year college. It can be a trade school, could be vocational training, or whatever they want. But again, we're trying to partner with, the Promise program tries to partner with schools to put the idea in front of kids that you can continue education past 12th grade. And whatever we can do to keep that idea in front of them, we're all about that. And so, our main purpose here is to thank you for your continued support in that. But also, maybe give you a little bit of an update and have Linda introduce herself so that you know how we're doing so far.

Gary said thank you.

Linda Wood said thank you for allowing us to speak to you this morning. As most of you know, the Promise program was initiated in Randolph County in 2018 as partnership with the Wabash County YMCA, which was operating the program in Indiana at that time. The purpose of Promise was to reach

out to Randolph County families to create 529 accounts along with encouraging students to pursue secondary education. The statewide program eventually transitioned from the Wabash County YMCA to the Indiana Youth Institute. From its start, in 2018, the program progressed quite well with over 500 enrollees before the impact of the COVID pandemic. Among the most important impacts for the Promise program were the changes in how the local schools managed their enrollment processes, which led to fewer opportunities to directly interact with potential Promise families. Then in the fall of 2022, IYI wanted to negotiate the written agreement with participating counties. In January 2023, IYI shut down the enrollment portal. With unsuccessful negotiations throughout the next few months, the county, the Community Foundation agreed to part ways with the Indiana Youth Institute. And in September 2023, the Foundation board agreed to give Promise until the end of the year to organize and transition to the early scholarship program and to rebrand back to the original name of Randolph County Promise. As Randolph County Promise continues today as an early award scholarship program, a child's participation requires that the family establish a 529 savings plan and complete our registration form. Then when the child reaches the end of the 8th grade, the Promise program awards certificates to each program participant informing them that they have a scholarship to college or trade school available after high school graduation. All 5 Randolph County schools have participants in the current Randolph County Promise early award scholarship program. And while enrollments were a bit slow during last year, which was my first year, the beginning of the present school year has seen 59 new enrollees. We are so proud of Randolph Central with 38 new enrollees and Randolph Eastern with 13. The other schools include Randolph Southern with 3, Monroe Central with 3 and Union with 2. As part of the early award scholarship program, our Promise participants also earn additional support for their scholarship through incentives. Those incentives include 95% attendance percentage, reading and service project, spelling bee, walk into my future coloring contest, extracurricular participation and champions week, which I when family, friends or neighbors contribute to the child's 529 plan. Champions week is when participating's family have skin in the game and when funding from the Commissioners is used to support the incentive awards. For the new enrollees' participation in the incentives so far this year has been 100% for Monroe Central and above 35% for 3 of the other 4 districts. Promise has liaisons in each of the elementary and junior highs in the county. They have been a great help. But in order to reach out to the families, I personally, have attended many school functions including parent/teacher conferences, open houses, fall festivals, 4-H fair, reality store and just recently, the Randolph County tournament. If they invite me, I try very hard to attend any school functions. At the present time, we have 649 students with Promise accounts. We sincerely appreciate the commissioners' support of Randolph County Promise as well as support from local businesses, service organizations and individuals. Our goal is to continue to partner with our schools to ensure that families are not only encouraged to enroll in the Promise program, but also to be engaged with the incentive opportunities available to each enrolled students, especially champions week. You have anything to add?

Tom Osborn said don't think so.

Linda Wood said have anything to add?

Gary said thank you.

Linda Wood said do you have any questions?

Gary said no. If this were to re-fund I think in 2028, it would have to be looked at a little differently only because we don't know what the state's doing with.

Tom Osborn said right.

Gary said this is currently out of EDIT. EDIT goes away, and right now as it states, everything can change. You're not asking for money. Just so you know, if you come to the commissioners for reinstating it, it may be a different discussion. Not that they'd say no, it's just how we'd do it, we don't even know yet. Does that make sense.

Ashley Stephen said it does.

Tom Osborn said yes, we are aware of the state budget is a bit of a puzzle right now and your support so far has been wonderful and the program just couldn't support itself obviously, we couldn't do it without your help and so if you can continue with that level of support, we'd be, greatly appreciated.

Missy said you know and some people have questioned well if the state is going to give every kid so much money, then why should we run this. Well because you need both of those programs to work together to get kids where they need to be with the rising cost of school, transportation, books, and, it just will help what they're doing. And I'm not sure it's going to pass on the grounds that they have stated right now. But hopefully, it will.

Gary said yeah. I guess it may be even out of the hands of the commissioners into the council's down the road as things change. We don't know. But for now, everything is great. Glad you're doing it here.

Tom Osborn said okay.

Gary said anybody else? Thank you.

Ashley Stephen said thank you.

Linda Wood said thank you.

Other Business:

Art Moystner, Randolph County Sheriff

Gary said alright, other business coming up. Sheriff Moystner.

Art Moystner said I don't have anything today unless you guys have questions.

Gary said thank you.

Minutes of January 19, 2026

Gary said minutes of the January 19, 2026 meeting. Somebody like to make a motion to accept these minutes? I trust everybody's got them and had an opportunity to review.

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

Minutes of Board of Finance January 19, 2026

Gary said alright, next up the minutes of the Board of Finance for January 19th, 2026. Everybody's had them emailed. Had time to review?

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

Payroll Claims \$360,986.49

Gary said next up, payroll claims, \$360,986.49. Somebody like to make a motion to approve the payroll claims?

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

Regular Claims \$729,751.47

Gary said then we have regular claims, \$729,751.47. Somebody like to make a motion to approve the regular claims?

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

Coblentz Construction Airport claim \$26,914.45

Gary said okay. On this one here, Coblentz Construction, this is the claim from the builder of the airport T-hanger, correct?

Laura said yes.

Gary said and I know they're in a decision of a little bit of clawback. Is this invoice recognize the clawback?

Missy said that's my question too.

Laura said I have no idea.

Tom said is there anybody here to?

Gary said is there anybody here to, I spoke to Jim Michael and he said that they were going to assess a clawback. And as long as the board, if the board accepts it, I don't have any problem with it. But I don't know if this particular claim has the claw back reduced. This is a final claim, isn't it?

Tom said state did approve the prints finally?

Gary said yeah, everything's good now. Everything's good now. Could we table this to send at the airport and make sure it does include everything they want to see?

Missy said I think it's a good idea. I've been out there quite a bit. I don't know. I can't answer that.

Gary said you don't have the answer to that?

Missy said no, I don't. But they did talk in the board meeting.

Gary said would the retainage of 1416 be what they remained?

Missy said yeah, I would think. Well, I don't know. I can't say.

Gary said okay. I don't know if that retainage is what would be the clawback for.

Tom said there should be retainage in the contract anyway for 30 days, 60 days.

Gary said I don't know. We'll move on while Meeks is looking at it and we'll come back to it. Probably end up tabling it and having them say it's ready to pay, the airport board that is.

Meeks said there's \$48,000.00 of retainage.

Gary said that they've taken away from them?

Meeks said I don't know. It just says retainage.

Missy said it doesn't say whether it's.

Meek said it doesn't say if it's.

Gary said I think we should let them tell us.

Meeks said I can tell you there's \$50,000.00 for the, 48 plus the 14, so there's, they have \$51,000.00 of retainage. But it doesn't say what they've done with it. So, there is \$51,000.00 held back. And I, you need to ask them but any reduction is going to come out of the retainage, so. But, talk to the airport board. I mean, that's what retainage is for. But, you probably need to talk to the airport board, see where you're at on it.

Gary said Missy, you're asking if this invoice includes what they assessed penalties?

Missy said yeah, I am, yeah.

Gary said if it does, then we can pass it and go on.

Missy said okay.

Gary said we could make a motion to pass it if retainage is included. Is that something we can do?

Meeks said I think it's, I think you have 14 days if you're going to pass it, 14 days, just go see what it is then come back and.

Missy said yeah.

Gary said alright. Thank you. Yep.

Eastern Indiana Regional Planning Commission claim \$9676.40

Gary said alright. Eastern Indiana Regional Planning Commission claim, \$9,676.40. It's my understanding, we're obligated.

Missy said yeah, let me give you a little update on that.

Gary said okay.

Missy said so, I went to the meeting last, I think it was last week, and it was an excellent meeting. Mike Pavey, who's the mayor of Rushville, is the president. And it was the best meeting I've ever been to with that organization. I was very encouraged at what we were doing. So, I would make a motion to pay that claim.

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

Gary said Missy, are you going to let us know if it's something we want to stay in?

Missy said yes. We're in it for the year. And if we want to withdraw, we have a time limit. I think it's like, it's not 90 days ahead of time, but it's.

Laura said 12 months and I've already gave them the notice that we're done in 12 months.

Missy said okay.

Laura said but if you change your mind, you need to let them know that.

Missy said okay. We can, right, okay.

Gary said right. Thank you, Laura. We can't without any type of penalty, if we don't have to.

Tornado rebuild building permits

Gary said tornado rebuild permits, Missy.

Missy said well they have expired. I don't see Deb here anymore. Deb. Sorry about that. So, I know you've had several home owners coming in wanting to rebuild and it's actually, we didn't set a deadline on how long.

Debra Johnting said no, and we have no idea when someone comes in 2 years, 5 years later, was that actually in the tornado, if it's a house, it's a.

Gary said well this had to be rebuilt on the same footprint, I believe.

Debra Johnting said on the same property. If a house was sitting right on the property line, obviously, they had to move over.

Gary said yeah, you just have to follow the fire code, but you couldn't expand the size?

Debra Johnting said uh, I think, I think you could. Some of them did.

Missy said I think you can.

Debra Johnting said we didn't have any.

Gary said I don't remember, but we passed that.

Debra Johnting said just a residence or a barn or a shed could be rebuilt, pool, anything could be rebuilt. The problem is not adding something, it's adding it with zero cost for the permits.

Missy said right.

Debra Johnting said how long are we going to give free permits. And as long as we know for sure that it actually was damaged in the tornado. As time goes on, it's harder to know.

Gary said sure. Could you have somebody look up the language on that?

Laura said we did not set a deadline.

Meeks said you did not set that language.

Gary said we'll have to look into the language what we were allowing.

Meeks said well, you can go on the permit that if you're going to go closer, if you're going to expand, you have to follow our, follow our ordinance.

Gary said right.

Meek said and if you're too close, you're going to have to do, get a firewall or whatever they require.

Debra Johnting said right. And I don't know that the one we had that was right on the line was never rebuilt anyway. We thought we'd have a problem with it, but we didn't.

Meeks said yeah, so, I, my feeling would be to, you've gone through this process already, whoever is going to rebuild has probably rebuilt.

Debra Johnting said and now, there are lots down in the Gaslight Addition, those owners are not going to rebuild. The lots will be sold and the new owners have to buy a permit.

Meeks said yeah, and they need to get a permit.

Debra Johnting said because they didn't lose anything in the tornado.

Gary said so, what do we need to do, Meeks before we just.

Meeks said I think you just, I think what you do is just, have a vote going forward, you jut follow the normal process.

Debra Johnting said and we had someone in last week that said they just settled with their insurance company.

Meeks said other than that person. Set a date. When did the tornado hit? When was it?

Missy said April.

Laura said April of 24?

Debra Johnting said it was Friday.

Meeks said yeah, just say April, that day, and going forward from that day, then you go under a regular process.

Laura said of 26?

Meeks said you probably should have put the date on it originally.

Debra Johnting said yeah, we just don't know, since there were no demo permits issued, we don't know what actually was destroyed.

Gary said I don't remember every detail, but we were very open with, to get people to rebuild without much hassle.

Debra Johnting said and we did. We just don't know, going forward, and someone comes in and says well this house was destroyed by the tornado, but I didn't own it then, so.

Gary said I would say between now and April the 24th once this word gets out, if somebody has something they want to rebuild. Somebody like to entertain a motion that we cease the free permitting April 24, 2026 for tornado related damage?

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

Courthouse security

Gary said the courthouse security. I've got on her we lost, we did not get the grant. But, we need to move on the courthouse security, grant or no grant, no matter what. So, I would like to have the commissioners entertain, there's \$383,000.00 in the technology line, in the EDIT plan that's not going to go to paying for somebody, well I shouldn't say it's not going to, it's just setting there and I have what line, if I can find it. But we consider using that and getting an engineer started now, and get moving. And I did, I reached out to Dave Inderstrod from Maze. They do that. He can do that. He just wants to know if we want him to do that. So, that's a decision for the commissioners.

Missy said I think we need to get a couple bids on this and see what ideas some of the other.

Gary said a couple of bids on the designer?

Missy said yeah.

Gary said I don't even know who else to get.

Missy said well, I wonder who, Joey could find out, who did Jay County use, who did? There's been some recently who put in security in the last 2 years.

Gary said yeah. You bid on the project, you can bid on the designer too?

Missy said yeah, I think, I guess so.

Gary said okay. Tom, your thoughts?

Tom said my biggest thought is I think we should just, if we're going to proceed with design, we just proceed with design right now for downstairs. There was a lot of stuff going on up here.

Gary said oh, I'm talking, yeah, the whole courthouse. I mean, it starts downstairs.

Tom said well, but we just start with downstairs in putting in the security and secure the whole courthouse, but, I don't know that we include all the bullet proof glass and everything up here, it starts that design, since we did not.

Missy said I think we might have to take it steps at a time.

Tom said since we didn't get the grant, we start with just downstairs where we get that design all done, and to get the courthouse secure.

Gary said okay, well we have, we can take it out of EDIT funds if that's the way we want to go, and we can also take it out of Special LIT it is allowed. I think the, and if you want to get a 2nd opinion or a 3rd opinion on the designer, that's fine. I don't have a problem with that, but I don't know who we would get.

Missy said yeah. If you don't think we can find anybody, I'm just.

Gary said well I think Dave Inderstrodt does a fine job.

Meeks said on designers, it's usually, you go with your design person and then you have them bid out.

Gary said yeah.

Meeks said like 3 or 4 contractors that will come.

Missy said okay.

Meeks said because that's where your cost is, because every designer's going to have the same.

Gary said he's going to be here anyway working on the courthouse design for other projects that's going on.

Tom said wasn't there a designer part of that discussion already besides, that Jake had brought in?

Gary said that was.

Meeks said that was Maze.

Gary said no, it was the jail designer.

Laura said Argo.

Gary said Argo, Tony Jacobs. He walked through and said he could, we could have Argo and Dave give us a quote how much to design courthouse security, then we take the best.

Tom said since Argo has already been here with that.

Gary said Argo's got a big project to do for the jail. I can contact them both.

Meeks said yeah. Why don't you contact, would it make sense to then have another committee meeting, Missy?

Missy said yes.

Meeks said okay. Once you guys contact them, I will email the committee and ask for dates.

Gary said okay and I.

Meeks said I'll include you in on that Gary, if you want. I don't know if you need to be there.

Gary said I don't have anything to do with it. Just want to get this thing rolling.

Meeks said yeah.

Gary said I guess my whole thing here is time. It needs to start rolling.

Missy said Larry, you're on that committee. Do you agree we need to have, I think we need to get together for another meeting?

Gary said okay, come on up Larry.

Missy said I mean the council is as much in on this as.

Larry Preston said yeah, Larry Preston, county council. I agree with you Missy, and I think I emailed you and Meeks and Kim probably a couple of weeks ago asking for another meeting, just so we all stay on the same page, because I want to be on the same page when we talk to the commissioners or talk to the public or whatever. Yeah, I think another meeting is in, intact, if we can get it arranged.

Missy said we can.

Meeks said I think we can get one arranged. I'd like to have the vote from the commissioners so we can take it to the committee that said we're going to proceed the courthouse security even though we didn't get the grant, and that we're going to use the, whichever funds you were thinking of, Gary, to fund that.

Gary said yeah, either one.

Meeks said so then, we at least, can go back to the committee, the commissioners have approved it and there's a funding source.

Meeks said yeah.

Gary said okay. That works for me. Tom, okay?

Tom said yep.

Gary said Missy?

Missy said yep.

Gary said somebody like to make a motion that we will proceed with the courthouse security upgrades, the funding is not determined, it'll either be out of EDIT funding or out of Special LIT?

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

Missy said I don't know that this will be good or bad, in between, but I did call Representative Prescott and say why and how did they choose the winners and losers on that grant and can we get some feedback on why we were denied. Seems almost impossible. I haven't heard of anybody who applied for grants that, well, out of 6 counties that I contacted, I asked them down in our meeting in Richmond last week, and they were kind of surprised. So, hopefully, I'll try to get with him today or tomorrow or tonight and say can they review that, where'd we go, that we didn't get it?

Larry Preston said I agree, Missy. I understood that ours was a smaller grant from, than some others, so, it is what it is, so.

Missy said yeah, yeah. We'll go forward, but keep trying to get the grant. I'll figure out where we went wrong on that one.

Gary said okay, moving on.

Health Department Sanitarian inspection on homes

Gary said Missy, Health Department Sanitarian inspection on homes.

Missy said yeah, there are, and I've brought this up several times, you know, there are several houses around that I get, sometimes people will call me and say you know, what, like this one, I'm just going to show you that. That's a house I get neighbors who are calling. The person, there's been a gentleman who bought 2 lots just, oh sorry, that's right at Fountain Park Cemetery. Just come on Richmond Street and you're going to be right there. A person who's bought a lot and a half there and wants to build starting in the spring, but all that stuff is over on his property.

And so, how's he get it moved? How's he build his own house? So, I contacted the Health Department, asked if they could kind of go look at that. And what I hear is they say it's not their job. So, I don't know who, who do we get to do that if it's not the Health Departments job to do that? It's an unfit house, obviously.

Gary said where do the commissioners fit in on this, Meeks?

Meeks said I mean, I guess if you bought an uninhabitable house, that's, they need to, you could look at that. I don't know if it's habitable or not.

Tom said well, I talked to Dr. Sowinski on this and he said they would have to have a written request, but then they also have to have permission from the land owner to get on the property. So, which almost ties, because most landowners would say no.

Meeks said well the Health Department, I mean, the Health Department can go in.

Missy said yeah.

Meeks said under certain circumstances.

Missy said yeah, under certain circumstances.

Meeks said are people living there?

Tom said no.

Meeks said if no one's living there though, you just have an empty house. So, that's, if it's an attracted nuisance then, then you file a nuisance ordinance against them with the city.

Gary said have they filed with the city, a nuisance ordinance?

Missy said they have on other houses that this same family owns.

Meeks said Bob would know. It might be in the system. Is this one in the system, Bob? Bob's raising his head.

Bob McCoy said yeah, you.

Gary said Bob, you've got to come up please.

Bob McCoy said I know. I was trying to avoid coming up here.

Missy said Bob, here's the one I'm talking about.

Bob McCoy said I think I know exactly what he's talking about.

Meeks said the one across from Wendy.

Bob McCoy said yeah, that is currently in the process.

Missy said oh good.

Meeks said yeah, see that's in the process.

Bob McCoy said but, I mean, I've got a year and 11 months and it'll probably take every bit of that time, because it's a very, very slow process. Maybe not, but yes, they're in court. They have court dates.

Meeks said which one is this one?

Bob McCoy said 736 Richmond?

Missy said uh huh.

Meeks said yeah, I think it, yeah.

Bob McCoy said yeah, it's pretty bad when you go to bed and you think about these properties.

Missy said yeah.

Bob McCoy said but no, it's in process. What we're finding out is we started out in Union City court, there's only so much that judge can do. So, we're going through Superior and we're asking.

Meeks said we probably filed 4 or 5 in Superior right now, right?

Bob McCoy said yes. So, we filed for an abatement. So, I think I've got 4 properties going before the Board of Works on the 16th?

Meeks said our next meeting.

Bob McCoy said next meeting. The Board of Works will review the properties. The property owners have been notified they need to fix the problem. If they haven't fixed it by that time period, the Board of Works will basically make a motion to file in Superior Court. Once it's filed in Superior Court, it could be 6 weeks?

Meeks said probably, yeah.

Bob McCoy said yeah. And then depending on how that all goes, they could get an extension, whatever, but it's not that we haven't been.

Missy said I know you have.

Bob McCoy said but it's a very, very slow.

Meeks said but if you're going to abate somebody's property, I mean, you can get an abatement without getting a court order, but that's going through the administrative process with the Board of Works. And that's a lot of liability on the city of Winchester. So, that's why we get a court order to tear these down.

Bob McCoy said even though we could, we don't want to go in and start yanking stuff off the property without having a judge say hey, clean it up.

Gary said absolutely.

Missy said how about if it's, this junk, a lot of it is about 15 feet over on the other person's property.

Meeks said well that guy can sue. That guy needs to sue.

Bob McCoy said I think that turns into civil.

Meeks said that's a civil. That is nothing we can do about that.

Missy said okay.

Meeks said that's 2 landowners are fighting.

Gary said we've seen that before.

Missy said yeah.

Meeks said and the city of Winchester will not get involved in that one, nor the county.

Gary said to get on to, the mission we've got here is I know, Dr. Sowinski has talked to Tom. Where is the Health Department in all this? What is?

Meeks said well if somebody's living in a house and it's uninhabitable, then there's all sorts about, you have to have.

Gary said how do you get them to do it if necessary, what's the?

Meeks said well you can get court orders at that point too.

Tom said the Health Department said they would go in with a written, they have to have a written.

Meeks said then can do a no occupancy thing and, you know.

Tom said right.

Meeks said they did that out here.

Tom said but if it's an abandoned house, there's really not much to help.

Meeks said if you're not living there, see, that becomes a nuisance.

Missy said there was a vagrant in there 2 weeks ago. Does that count living there?

Gary said who issues the written request?

Tom said anybody.

Gary said anybody? Any citizen?

Tom said citizen.

Gary said okay.

Tom said can be a public official.

Meeks said we used to have that at the building commission. If you thought there was something out in the county that was a nuisance or something.

Bob McCoy said 675 Ludy Road, which is the one that's boarded up by NAPA now, been well over a year.

Meeks said it took us forever.

Bob McCoy said we ended up getting the Health Department involved because there were people living in there, had no water, no sewage, basically had a hole cut in the floor. That's where they went to the bathroom. Lots of people living in there. We went to the Health Department. They basically, put a notice on the door that it was uninhabitable. From there, it kind of stopped as far as the Health Department. I don't know whether they could have taken it further, but we ended up going to Superior Court, I think.

Meeks said yes, we did.

Bob McCoy said we asked for an abatement. The city went in there, cleaned it up, basically, had to evict everybody that was in there, had to send them all notices.

Meeks said yeah.

Bob McCoy said even though they had no ownership.

Meeks said the problems with these houses are grandma and grandpa died, now the grandkids are there, no one owns it, because it's still in grandpa and grandma's name. So, it becomes very problematic.

Bob McCoy said but that house did sell at a tax sale.

Missy said yeah, I saw that.

Bob McCoy said and the guy that's got it wants to tear it down. So, that's good.

Missy said well this guy wants to start to build this spring. Well, it's 10, well 11 feet 7 inches over his property. He had it surveyed.

Bob McCoy said and like Meeks said, that turns into a civil thing and maybe he could have his attorney send a certified letter out and say hey, clean it up.

Missy said yeah.

Tom said with the, talking about the Health Department, with nobody living there, what about the nuisance with critters and animals and stuff.

Meeks said they can do something with that. Then you have to have proof of that. They've done that before with mosquitoes and stuff like that.

Tom said but coons and stuff.

Missy said they're trapping the raccoons now, the people who want to get it fixed.

Tom said the people living in the abandoned house.

Bob McCoy said we have not had a whole lot of luck pursuing critters and bugs and whatever with the Health Department. It's more about people living in it and unsanitary conditions. And then you throw children on top of that, and that's when they really will get involved. But as far as rodents, we haven't had a whole lot of luck with that.

Missy said how about if the rodents are tearing through the drywall, through bricks that have been falling out, and going to the other side? I mean, I've got a photo somebody sent me of their business over here saying we trapped this raccoon?

Gary said so, if anybody could do a request on anyone's projects, I mean, Missy, can't you go to the Health Department and write out a request?

Missy said I did.

Gary said you did?

Missy said I did.

Gary said and it went nowhere?

Missy said I turned it in. I haven't heard anything back on it.

Gary said since the last meeting?

Missy said oh yeah, uh huh, yeah.

Gary said so, since Missy's asked them, they may have one.

Tom said yep, might.

Gary said so that's something that's.

Tom said yeah, I haven't talked to him since last meeting when he asked what.

Bob McCoy said I don't think there's any follow through.

Gary said okay, that's a different.

Bob McCoy said a lot of times, there's no follow through. So, you do send something and you don't get any reply. People call and don't get any answer, don't get a return call. That's been a big issue.

Meeks said well I think the Health Department in Delaware County, they pursue these. I do know that.

Missy said they do. I went over. I went there and I went to Jay County.

Meeks said you guys are going to have to change the Health Department budget then because there's no enforcement.

Gary said yeah, they don't have any, right.

Meeks said you're going to have to add enforcement money. How much does it cost, \$15,000.00 to tear down a house? So, if you're going to start doing enforcement orders like that, you'll have to fund that.

Gary said so, to get started, anybody that's got a request for a property like this needs to get a form filled out with the Health Department, make a written request. If that doesn't follow through, then anybody can contact, one of us can talk to Dr. Sowinski and the Health Board and say hey, we've got a request, we heard nothing back, what's the status? So, we need this process, just to have a process.

Bob McCoy said but an empty blighted home is not the Health Department's responsibility.

Meeks said and it shouldn't be, because no one's living there.

Bob McCoy said we can pursue it, but again, it is a very, very slow process and you've got to cross your Ts and dot your Is, and make sure you get a judge to sign off on an abatement.

Meeks said and there's a state statute that says you can't rent a home if it's not habitable.

Gary said right, yep.

Missy said and I do appreciate what you're doing. I didn't mean, but those neighbors have had it.

Bob McCoy said no, no, it's just.

Gary said so, the whole thing just kind of falls in their domain anyway. If it doesn't, it doesn't. Might want it to, but it doesn't. Okay.

Bob McCoy said and it all goes back to if you say a home is uninhabitable, I'm not an engineer, you're not an engineer.

Gary said nope.

Missy said right.

Bob McCoy said Union City's used somebody in the past. They're not technically an engineer, but if you have that statement and then you still take it to a judge. But without a true structural engineer or whatever they are, you really don't have a leg to stand on, even on an unsafe building.

Gary said right.

Tom said and the Health Department doesn't do the structural anyway.

Gary said no.

Bob McCoy said no.

Missy said no.

Gary said that's, these are two things, one's that fall within their authority, and two is their request. So, there's got to be a request if it falls within their authority to start with.

Bob McCoy said exactly.

Gary said if it doesn't, there's judicial authority and that's what you're wrapped up in now.

Bob McCoy said and you know, something we've been running into is people will buy houses that have been through many tax sales, they're falling apart, and then all of a sudden, they're wanting to take the sewage off and shut the water off and turn it into a storage unit or a storage house. And then here, all of a sudden, you're in the middle of a nice neighborhood and you've got these people that are just storing their junk in there. And I don't even know how to stop that.

Gary said I don't know.

Bob McCoy said 1 year, 11 months.

Gary said okay, moving on. Thank you, Bob, Mayor.

Resolution 2026-02 Transfer of tax lien certificate

Gary said Resolution 2026-02, transfer of tax lien certificate.

Tom said this for Ridgeville?

Gary said this is for Ridgeville, yeah. Transferring properties in Ridgeville. Somebody like to make a motion to approve Resolution 2026-02?

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

EDIT plan and set meeting date

Gary said EDIT plan. Set a meeting and a date. EDIT plan, approve the EDIT plan and what's on there for approval is?

Laura said we had to add the Indiana Regional Planning Commission.

Meeks said and the people that.

Laura said the Lifestream. Those are the two additions.

Gary said thank you. Somebody like to make a motion to approve the addition to our EDIT plan?

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

Gary said date. Wednesdays, generally where we go, if that works? Somebody have a, don't have my phone, so, I don't have anything in the way that I know of.

Missy said yeah, I don't either.

Tom said the 18th is Area Planning, so, the 18th.

Gary said be or not be?

Tom said unless we do it early.

Gary said we do it at 6.

Tom said okay, I guess it's short enough, yeah.

Gary said you're already here, right?

Tom said yeah, let's do the 18th.

Gary said 18th of February. 18th work for you Missy?

Missy said yeah.

Gary said at 6:00 o'clock. Meeks does it work for you?

Meeks said it works for me.

Gary said Laura?

Laura said yes.

Gary said alright, somebody like to make a motion to set our EDIT plan meeting, EDIT board meeting February 18th at 6:00 p.m.?

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

ExacqVision camera license (1-year) agreement

Gary said okay, next up we have the video camera license, 1-year agreement from Exacq Vision.

Gary said somebody like to make a motion to approve?

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

Leap quote additional server for 911

Gary said Leap quote additional server, 911. That's just a fee for running it, right?

Laura said yeah.

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

Leap quote Reroute fiber Farmland EMS

Gary said next up for Leap. Leap quote to reroute the fiber in Farmland EMS station.

Laura said which we talked to Gary and he has the funding for that. It's just 346.29.

Gary said so that's in his building maintenance?

Missy said who came up with the plan to put that in, in the first place, and then it's not where it should be? Is it just the position of the cameras or? I mean, I know that's part of it.

Gary said I don't know for sure how it got in the wrong spot. I don't.

Missy said what's the cost on that?

Gary said \$346.29. Honestly, I think it was employees trying to do it themselves, and this is having the professionals do it.

Missy said okay. I make a motion to approve.

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

Security camera changes

Gary said security camera changes.

Laura said I sent those out in an email. Just need approval to make the changes if you want to make them as discussed in the email. Here's the email if you need to re-read it.

Gary said yeah, I read it again last night. I guess first I think we should probably have full time, we don't have to worry on the motion sensor for the prosecutors. We have the capability for it to always be on, right?

Laura said uh huh.

Gary said and not motion activated?

Laura said uh huh.

Gary said the second question is do we want audio? We do not currently have audio, correct?

Laura said yeah, we have the ability, according to Joseph, we have the ability, but it's not turned on.

Gary said I think we have a bit of an issue with no procedure on who gets to have access and who doesn't. It's absolutely, certainly the judges, certainly the prosecutors, certainly the elected officials have the right. How far down the stream shall we go with that? I think there's a meeting or a committee going to be put on who does what. If we get audio going on, right, I mean, I think you need audio when you need to really prove a case for liability for the county, but I don't think you need any employee in Randolph County, whether they're elected official thinks they ought to or not, unless it's a judge, judicial system and the prosecutor, to just be able to get on our system. I just don't. What do you guys think?

Missy said I agree with you.

Tom said especially with audio.

Gary said especially with audio.

Tom said yep.

Gary said Meeks, what do you think we should do?

Meeks said I think you should have the cameras and hold off on the audio.

Gary said for now, hold off on the audio?

Meeks said and then see, and then when you do, you're going to do a lot of security updates and things and you're going to have consultants in and you just ask them.

Gary said okay, so I think we should take.

Meeks said so that's kind of doing what you do now, but you know.

Gary said the only other thing on here too is there's no need for the prosecutor to be on a motion delay, or a motion sensor?

Meeks said yeah, I don't.

Gary said he can be full time on.

Meeks said yeah, yeah.

Gary said so, let's make, I'd like to have a motion to make that change and then hold off on the audio at this time. Somebody like to make that motion?

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

Emergency Closing policy discussion

Gary said emergency closing policy discussion. There're some folks here I'm sure they're interested in this. We have a policy that says if the Courthouse is closed and you're not coming into work, you don't get paid, you've got to use personal time or vacation time to get the day. I, for one, believe that's where the policy needs to remain. Most of the working public doesn't have that privilege. We do serve the public. We do give out a plentiful amount of vacation now and personal time, and I mean, the same case, it rarely happens, happens so little why would it hurt, or the other way. One thing for the council and commissioners to consider, if we were to do something like this, you would immediately put everybody that did have to come in and do emergency services, 8 hours of extra overtime pay right then and there, because that's kind of making a snow day a holiday type-of-thing. It's not. It's an unfortunate event, but it happens. So, there are of course, 3 of us. I don't agree, and I will vote no on changing policy. Tom?

Tom said I have to, I hate for the employees to be punished for missing a day, especially you know, our pays are extraordinary, and affecting their personal budgets. However, it's rare, so, and I struggle both ways. I can probably be convinced both ways, I really.

Missy said well I think we should pay them because it's not any detriment of their own that they can't be there. I think to show appreciate, I mean, and sometimes these jobs, they look, oh, it's easy, you're just sitting there, we're sitting here, they're sitting there. It's always really easy, but, it's now always. I just think to, I just think they, if the courthouse closes and people, you know, they can't get in for, if they can't get in and we don't, they're out, in you know, in Maxville or wherever else, I think they, possibly we need to think about this and write in where if you cannot get here but the rest, if you live in town you can, and the courthouse stays open, I want to error on the side of giving them the benefit of the doubt. That's 20% of your pay that week. If you'd happen to have 2 days, 40%. A lot of time, people running on, many of us are running on a budget that if you get shut down for a couple of days and you don't get paid, it's a real hardship.

Tom said I struggle with why we would have to pay the time and a half for the other because since it's part of the job description.

Missy said yeah.

Gary said but you can't close, give one benefit to somebody else and not the same benefit to the other part that have to come in, they have to come in. That is farther unfair then saying you know, use a personal day, that's why we have personal days. Use a personal day for such events they want. I mean if you got down to it, I'd rather give another extra personal day, say you better use that for closure if we happen to have one, to keep us out of this throwing everybody into double time and a half. But, you know, we can't sit here and say oh, by the way, all the private industry we're going to force you to pay your employees too. We serve the people and this is not different than the private side. And we give personal days for such. But, you guys don't have to agree with me. That's just where I'm at. We don't have a choice but to pay the other employees who come to work while we give the other employees a free day off. I know it's not free. It's not free. But it's a pay situation. Counsellor?

Meeks said are you looking at me? I can tell you I pulled the handbook and it's been the policy since 2014. I talked to Laura on Friday and she thought you guys got paid before 14.

Laura said when I first started here, we got paid if they closed.

Gary said that is right.

Meeks said yeah, yeah. And so, my, what my thought was, if you guys are interested, I heard the fairness thing, that's why we have Irwin on retainer.

Gary said yes.

Meeks said we asked them like, what's the policy? I mean they do 80 policies over the, of the 92 counties, they do 80 of them. Laura can reach out or I can reach out or I can reach out to them and say hey, what type of policies are there around for these emergency closures? And if they said no one does it, then that tells us something. If they say well here's what everybody else does with those, then that's. I would rely on our experts, and then ask them what do you do for the emergency services at that point? Now, I would say in 2014, we had a heck of a lot more comp time. I mean, we were allowing people to accrue that. And so, back then, it was okay, I mean, oh man, I have to use 4-hours, 8-hours of my 200-hour comp time. Don't think it mattered to people as much. So, I think it matters a little bit more to people now, only because you've been really hammering down, which I think is a good thing? So, I know other people don't.

Gary said I understand.

Meeks said but in the general term, that's what I would do. I'd have, make a motion to have Laura or I contact.

Laura said just be aware that there will be an expense for that.

Meeks said yeah, there'll be an expense, but I think it probably, a good expense to have to, then that'll kind of inform us what everybody else is doing.

Gary said so, somebody likes to make a motion to that then?

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

Meeks said now, I would say I don't know how you do anything retroactive back.

Missy said no, I understand.

Meeks said I want to make sure, very well aware, everybody heard that, I think this would be a going forward, unless Irwin says we can somehow retroactive things back. I suspect he's going to say that was the policy when that occurred, so you going to have to stay with the policy. But we'll see.

Gary said and I would like to interject down the road that we add a personal day or two, so if you use this up instead of going to snow possibility, that's on you.

Meeks said yep.

Gary said otherwise, we're going into double time and half. That's not even fair to those folks.

Meeks said I did, I can say I did pull my notes from 2014 because I did make pretty good notes, and I have no idea why we changed that policy. It was in my notes.

Tom said unless we had an event like we did as some of us remember, back in 78, where people would be off for a couple of weeks or it would be hard, it would be a financial burden.

Gary said well, I spoke to Meek on that. I've actually looked into it, but if that would have happened, the commissioners can interject and say hey, we're paying everybody, whether we do a handbook change or not, if it's a big burden situation, I would agree completely. And our employees are our employees and it's not private side, but there are a lot of people that get burdened when we have a snow. And just got to make sure that we're not too far out ahead.

Airport T Hanger claim

Missy said let's go back to the construction claim for the airport. It seems that Jim Michael said it is done and we're holding some, so they are actually, the airport seems to be holding some back.

Gary said so that claim is what they intend?

Missy said yes, yes.

Gary said okay, with that, somebody like to make a motion to approve, and what we're approving is a claim for Coblenz Construction airport claim, \$26,914.45.

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

Citizen Comments (3 minutes)

Gary said okay. Moving right along. We are right now down to citizens comments. Then I'll get back to us for final comments. Anybody in attendance today have anything they like to bring forward to the commissioners? If so, come on up, state your name. You have 3 minutes.

George Caster said my name is George Caster. I'm a Randolph County Assessor. I'm also a citizen of this county. I'm coming on both parts. First part I want to address, there was a comment made that the Area Planning had no idea, they don't have any way of knowing where or what properties were destroyed by the tornado. That's absolutely false because I have every record of every property that was ever touched in that tornado from minor damage to severe damage. So, they do have access to find that information if they would just reach out and touch them. But I do agree that if it's been bought after the fact, they have no claim. It's on them. But your ruling was correct. You did say they must build on the footprint, not enlarge, but they did have to meet setback rules. So, because I was at that meeting too.

Gary said I couldn't remember.

George Caster said that's what you said. So, the ability to find this information is there if you just look at it. One of the other comments was made was also dealing with the RCU. Two times in the conversation that Sydnee had between herself and Missy both said the town. Is the town of Winchester now considered Randolph County or is it Randolph County and they're just part of it?

Gary said in reference to what?

George Caster said to all this stuff that they're doing.

Gary said don't know yet.

George Caster said well they said that the town. Well the town's very, well, Randolph County United is supposed to be uniting Randolph County.

Missy said and it is. It's representing all towns and cities and municipalities.

George Caster said okay. Well you represent, you stated and so did she, twice it was a town. So, I just did want to make sure that Winchester, no it's not the exact center, is the focal point of the county. It's the biggest town, I get it. But the whole county result is benefits or is punished by what happens throughout. Okay, that was that part. Now the last thing you guys did was talked about the emergency closing policy decision. Then you guys said a motion, we couldn't hear what, what was the motion for? We had no idea what your motion.

Gary said a motion was to hire Irwin to look into this to see what other counties are doing and what advice they would have for us on how to properly treat emergency services different than.

George Caster said okay. We didn't hear. All we heard was motion and for what?

Gary said we should probably get somebody here to fix the audio.

George Caster said well, it just depends on where, I guess you sit. Like now.

Gary said you should be able to sit anywhere in here and not have a problem.

George Caster said I understand, okay. I do have a question though. I've sent a notice out to every one of you and to Madam Auditor and the treasurer, referencing that policy and what changes could be looked at that benefits everybody and doesn't hurt people. The question was, was it looked at?

Missy said I looked at it.

George Caster said okay, because I do make concessions in there, because I do think there are certain things what you said are correct. Why give, pay somebody. But when you're a brand new hire and you haven't earned any PTO yet, well you're already out, like you said. If, for whatever reason, you had another issue, well, you're out, you don't have it. I do like your comment about making maybe 1 or 2, your decision, days set aside that must be used only for emergency.

Gary said no, I didn't say must be.

George Caster said well could be.

Gary said if you did use it, it was on you.

George Caster said yeah. They don't get that addition on at the end of the year. It's only to use for emergency.

Gary said that's not what I said. We're having Irwin look at it. I was saying that we add a personal day to every body so even those that had to work would have an extra day to take personal. It just keeps the payroll on the 2 ½ times off but we're having a professional look at it.

George Caster said oh, okay. Not anybody that actually gets paid to work. Alright. So.

Meeks said what is that?

Gary said I missed that one.

Meeks said okay.

George Caster said well, you get a lot of times you get told well I talked to a professional. What the term of professional is you get paid to do a job. So, we're all professionals here.

Gary said well, I didn't say you were not. So is Irwin. That's what I was referring to.

George Caster said well too. But Irwin has also made other comments that were not.

Gary said they may have been comments you may not have liked, but they are very professional.

George Caster said yeah, okay. I agree with you on that one.

Gary said okay.

George Caster said but just because they get paid to do it doesn't mean it's right either.

Gary said they're under strict federal law, okay?

George Caster said okay.

Gary said just don't get off and say Irwin's no good. They are good.

George Caster said I didn't say they weren't. I just said just because they're professional, doesn't mean they're always correct.

Gary said wanted to make sure we didn't leave the wrong impression. Thank you.

Missy said George, I'll certainly watch the video and apologize if I need to. I wasn't isolating any town for RCU.

George Caster said I just, these are things I heard. I got time to talk. I wanted to get it said.

Missy said I appreciate it.

Gary said thank you very much.

Missy said yeah.

Gary said have a nice day, George. Anybody else? One, two, three, no one? Okay. Now we'll go on to the final. Missy, anything else?

Missy said nope, I can't think of anything.

Gary said Laura?

Laura Martin – SBOA office space

Laura said only that State Board of Accounts has reached back out to me regarding space here for a person. I know you guys voted to approve that. I looked at the minutes, I can't remember when we did that, March or whatever. So, it's a new person now and she's reached back out to me, and the way we left it is you guys voted to allow that, but you wanted a lease at zero dollars. And I sent that lease to State Board and they never replied. So, does that still stand if, do you still want that zero-dollar lease?

Gary said I don't want to charge them.

Missy said yeah, I don't either.

Laura said but you want a lease in writing?

Tom said I think we need a lease.

Missy said yeah, I do too.

Meeks said you need some sort of agreement with them. If the state wants to give us something, that's fine too, I mean.

Laura said I just want to go back to her and tell her.

Meeks said the state's not going to like their lease, they're going to send us something. So, we'll just use whatever the state uses.

Laura said okay. That's all I have.

Gary said okay. I'll come back to myself. Before we get there, did Journey Home start, did they pay in January the rates?

Laura said I will have to look.

Gary said would you look?

Laura said yeah.

Gary said Tom?

Tom said I don't have anything.

Gary said Meeks?

Meeks said I don't have anything.

Gary Friend – Economic Development

Gary said I have one thing. It's going to be controversial, but it needs to be said. I think the commissioners need to consider looking into hiring our own Economic Development director to get what the commissioners think ought to happen in Randolph County. I, for one, am not satisfied with, and I've let the board president know, with what we're getting out of what we're paying for. I just don't think we're getting full time economic development on the ground. Nobody's doing anything wrong. The person chosen is a professional, no problem. But I don't think it's what Randolph County needs. So, I'd like for you two to consider shall we continue on, shall we finish the contract and then look at it later, or shall we run an ad? We can't run an ad for an economic development director just to see what's out there without going public. So, I'm going public. I do not believe that economic development RCU the way it is right now best serves the entirety of Randolph County. And I need to say that publicly because I'm saying it at our board meetings too. So, you guys consider that and come back up and see what we're going to do.

Tom said so, are you asking that to, hire a director underneath the commissioners and not underneath RCU?

Gary said correct. And fund it by reducing their funding. I can see that the commissioners would always give some funding for tourism and probably always give some funding for Chamber of Commerce and maybe a little bit of funding for some other project over there. But we are not getting full time economic development. And that's what we're paying \$270,000.00 a year over there. I expect more and I don't think we're getting it. So, I wanted to get that said so there's not a bunch of hearsay about it. And I'd like in the next meeting, have you guys and I'll bring it up that shall we or shall we not run an ad for economic development director for Randolph County or stay as we are.

Tom said what's the current contract with RCU? Is this the last year?

Gary said this is the final year of it. It's \$270,000.00 but not to them totally because.

Tom said part goes to tourism.

Gary said tourism. Anyway, it's coming up on us this year and that's all.

Adjournment

Gary said motion to adjourn? Somebody like to make a motion?

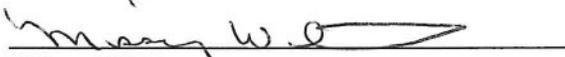
Missy made a motion to adjourn. Tom seconded the motion. All aye votes. Meeting adjourned.

Reviewed and accepted this 17 day of February, 2026

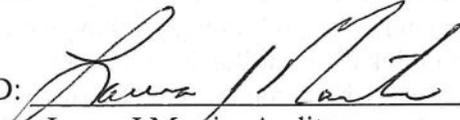

Gary Friend



Tom Kerns



Missy Williams

ATTESTED: 
Laura J Martin, Auditor