

## **Randolph County Council**

**May 6, 2025**

The Randolph County Council 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 David Lenkensdofer, Beverly Fields, Mike Stine, Todd Holaday, Greg Cheesman, Scott Fisher and Larry Preston. Also present was Randolph County Auditor Laura Martin, Sheriff Art Moystner and County Attorney Meeks Cockerill.

Pledge of Allegiance

### **Commissioner's update**

Missy Williams said Dave and I and I don't know who else was there had a meeting at the Recycling. Those are postcard on some things they have coming up. Yesterday we had a lot of information on the agenda. Larry Preston gave us the update from your meeting. The Carbon project that is going to be talked about on your meeting today. Chris Shaneyfelt was approved for the WTH grant that he asked for. We had an update from Sherrie Thompson at the Health Department and I'm assuming she is here to give you the same information. The big discussion was the project for 800 N for the US Ag quarry, the exact details of how that road would be rebuilt and then a gentleman came forward to let us know which caused me to take another drive up there. There might be a better route that would not have to cause some of the damage that the original route was going to take and is more of a straight shot. Joe Copeland our engineer added in on that. Samantha Burke came with a question about vacating a street in Harrisville but her attorney had not submitted the documentation so we didn't really hear anything about that. Then we had an update from Brad Dilger from EDP Renewable and I see he is here again today so I'll let him talk about that. We heard from Art Moystner with the fingerprint devices, we approved those new devices in the jail. We approved the claims. Vision Trail, we paid, that has now been put on hold and so we paid the last claim of \$1400.00 for that. Randolph County Tourism of course we appropriated \$2365 for that. The morgue project is coming along. We have the blueprints, I don't know if we can send those to each of you but I feel we ought to all communicate and know exactly what is going on. If it happens in our county I think we ought to have a place where you can get that information. There is a joint meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. I think that is about it. The solar ordinance, I will let Meeks speak to that.

Meeks said it was sent back to the APC.

Missy said so the solar ordinance, I'm going to interject some of my opinion on that. How far do you set back and how far do you not set back. I have no personal interest in any of that but I'm really concerned that we really need to keep our motto and other people see Randolph County as we are open for business. I was pleasantly surprised that everybody agreed yesterday, setbacks used to be 40 feet for the solar project to start. Now it went to the BZA and the APC and now it's been moved back to 500 feet. Which I'm assuming it's an agreement that everybody is going to be able to live with. But there are some questions on that.

Greg Cheesman said to add to that Missy, that 500 feet can be negotiated out of the individual contract. So, if you didn't want it that far back you can have it closer. If you wanted the 500 you can keep it at 500.

Missy said obviously that is at least a collaboration to get things moving along again. Maybe I shouldn't have but I know from a prior job after I retired from teaching that the funding that EDP Renewable can make for education and other things, like many entities can is a real benefit. I've done a little bit of driving around in the last 4 or 5 years just talking to people who had renewable energy, had the turbine or solar on their property. It has saved some farmers with small farms, that money has made it possible for them to stay there and hand it down to their kids. But it is up to each farmer if they want to do that or not. I appreciated all the planning commissions wanting to make the changes because I think they are good ones. There's always that drop back that you can do what the landowner in agreement with his neighbors can do what they want but it certainly made a giant difference in county budgets. Working with all kinds of companies coming into the county.

Dave said the way I understand it, the Commissioners have the final approval.

Missy said and I didn't know that, so thanks for bringing that up. I have had members of the Area Planning say you know we made this decision and then it goes to the next one and they change it and then it comes back to us and then we change it and they feel like they are getting caught in the middle. But I can see where you think you made a decision and you need some support and work together or at least talk before you decide what you're going to do.

Greg said one other thing, the morgue project. I know you talked about it but I couldn't hear what you were talking about. Are you building a new building?

Missy said it is set to go, the blue prints are here, I think it has to go through some approval by Area Planning. And there is also some soil samples being done. There isn't any danger of water in that area but there is standing water just south of that. Thanks for bringing that up, there is also an update on the EMS in Farmland. There have been some little things, Brad Mullen was not here but Gary was able to speak to it, most of the things that were imperfections in the building and outside the building are being worked on. They lost electricity there on Saturday but it was not the building, it was the town that lost electricity. That's coming along a lot better and thank goodness Jake is stepping in on that. We should have had him in on it from the very beginning because he is our maintenance supervisor here and he has been going over there anytime they call him or just stopping in to see how things are going and that has made an amazing difference. He really knows his stuff. I've had several people say that he came in here and found things that nobody else even thought to look for. I know I've been over there, Daves been over there, Larry's been over there and you've been over there. There are a lot of little things like the trim around the interior side of the windows are not what we want to have finished. There's a sewage line that wasn't buried at a legal depth. Those are all being fixed. So, thanks for bring that up.

#### **Chris Shaneyfelt- Grant approval WTH Proposal and overtime funding request**

Chris said I believe what you are looking at Dave is the proposal for the grant. So, that is a grant that is being funded by Indiana Seed and what it's for is to update the 911 GIS layers so that they meet current 911 technology requirements. It has something to do with the state portal and how we upload and download stuff from them as well. The grant would be entirely handled by WTH they would do the paperwork for it, we're just more of a pass through as far as the money goes. We've had no match or anything like that involved with it. If the state chooses to allow us to have that grant they'll update our stuff for us and do the paperwork.

Dave said that request is \$7,500.00. Any questions for Chris on that. If not I'll entertain a motion to approve.

Bev made a motion to approve the grant request. Scott seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.



Dave asked is there anything else for us Chris?

Chris said the overtime funding, do you want to discuss that today or wait until the Additional appropriation is published.

Dave said I don't know how much it's for.

Chris said \$100,000.00 I believe. I can't remember the exact dollar amount, I didn't bring that with me.

Dave said maybe next meeting we can discuss that. Bring your information with you.

Chris said yes, the dollar amount I don't remember, everything else I remember. Shannon had told me just before this last pay that I had to move money around to make payroll for the overtime. They are indicating we are out of funds.

Dave said you are having a lot of overtime.

Chris said I've been down as many as 4 people again just recently.

Dave said you may want to bring all that information with you. This is the first I've heard of that.

Chris said we were just told within the last two weeks, long enough for me to get the paperwork submitted but not quick enough to get it in before the publishing deadline.

Todd said you have got to plan ahead, we're in May and we're already making a request for \$100,000.00 of overtime. As a manager of people's time, I don't want surprises like that. It totally makes our budgeting process, it breaks it.

Chris said if you remember when we had the discussion of budgeting I had a lot of money in there and you guys cut it quite a bit and I said well that's fine as long as you remember it's not like I'm sending them, this is just to cover the basic shifts. If we're not covering the basic shifts, I don't know what to do. Like I said I've been down 4 people again.

Todd said it's been several years now where the same cycle is happening. We've bumped salaries up to try and be competitive with other counties 911 operators. I assume it's 911 operators we're talking about, right?

Chris said yes.

Todd said we've elevated the salaries, we've paid out the comp time and we just can't seem to keep it staffed even with higher salaries. I hope we're working hard to make sure that people are aware of the job openings. We talked about making sure that those we're listed on the counties web site. I don't know if that is happening. I've not seen it.

Laura said it is.

Chris said yes, it is and it's on our social media pages. We haven't taken them down. I've hired two new people, they're transfers. One's a transfer from Jay County and the one is a retiree from Henry County but she decided that she missed it and wanted to come back, so we've hired her. But the recent one that just quit is because she opened a small business instead of working for us. She wanted to go down that

road and do her dream which is fine. Emergency services is a fickle critter and emergency services has been going through a heck of a hiring problem lately and it's nationwide. I'm at the whims of human beings when it comes to that. I don't have any easy answers, I know that with our overtime and the way that the pay periods are does not help us any. The pay periods cause extra overtime. Because it's Monday through Sunday as opposed to a different day which would offset that one day because my people work a three, two schedule. So, they have a long week and a short week, long week they work 5 days out of seven which gives them 60 hours, well that's 20 hours of overtime in one week based off the FSLA law which automatically bumps them up to 30 hours, so there's one week they're getting 30 hours of overtime because of the way the pay period is scheduled.

Todd said we don't have any flexibility there to adjust that?

Chris said you'd have to ask the attorney and her. I've asked to do 80 hours and we can't do that. And so, the only other thing is changing in my opinion is changing the way the pay period goes. I understand that would jack it up for everybody or I don't know if you could do it by departments. That's 30 hours a week that they are getting automatically and I don't have a solution for that. Typically, they work 84 hours in a two week period. So, they should only really be getting 6 hours but because of that 20 hours of overtime week it bumps them up to 30 and that's a big chunk of change when you talking \$30 an hour, that's not helping us any. I've express it before we did this, I'm expressing it now. They work 84 hours they should not be getting 30 hours of overtime but the way the pay periods are that's the way it is.

Todd said I don't know the answer as to what we're allowed to do, what we're not allowed to do but I think we need the best situation we can, what we're allowed to have right. So, if you've got a different idea for the schedule for the week, let's make sure that we've tested to see whether or not that is something we can do.

Chris said we've done 8 hour schedules and people are constantly calling off sick or not coming to work. The 12 hour seems to work best. People are not calling off, they're working. They get their time off. That's another thing, if people take time off. I've had a girl that was off for vacation time and then bereavement leave because her dad died. That put me on the floor for a week covering her shifts. I've got to cover all these people that are needing off as well. It was like the comp time situation, you're just filling one position for another. It just contributes to that overtime.

Scott asked how many do you have on payroll?

Chris said if you count me as a full time employee it would be 12. I have one part time. I have actually two but she is the one that just left to go to her business and I really don't expect her to actually work that much.

Dave said anything else for Chris?

Todd said you've got people working 4/12's one week and 3/12's then next week

Chris said they are working 5/12's one week and two the next. They work Monday Tuesday, they're off Wednesday, Thursday, they work Friday, Saturday, Sunday. So, that's five days in one week. They're off Monday, Tuesday work Wednesday, Thursday then they have a three day weekend. So, it's a two/three/two schedule.

Todd said obviously 12 has to be the shift, a four/three saves a lot of money versus the 5/2. Because you get 48 hours one week and 36 the next week.



Chris said but getting it in the rotation is almost impossible. I've used AI and everything else trying to figure out these schedules.

Greg said a two week pay period would simplify things.

Chris said the two week 80 hour is a great idea but we can only do that in the medical field apparently. That's been looked at and a big discussion that me and Laura has had.

Laura said we went through that when we were switching to overtime and there was nothing we could do.

Chris said she's looked at the schedules, we talked different ways to try and do it and I don't have any easy answers.

Larry said it's something we need to keep working on, like Todd said I know I used to work a 2/2/3 which is almost the same as you and that was a 48/36 and that allows 4 hours overtime instead of 20 and would cover 24/7.

Chris said how many employees was that?

Larry said ten.

Chris said 2/2/3.

Larry said it was for the whole plant, our department was 10. It is almost the same as you are doing.

Chris said it is almost the exact same numbers, it would just be rearranging days. We will look at that and see what we can do.

Larry said like Todd said work 48 one week, 36 the next and you've got 4 hours of overtime.

Chris said I'll look at that to see what we can do with it.

Larry said there are people out there, consultants.

Chris said yes, but that cost money.

Larry said we tried every schedule there was and the 2/2/3 worked best for us to cover 24/7 and keep costs down.

Chris said okay, we will look at that and when we come back, hopefully we can have something a little bit better. I'm going to have to pull more money out of one of the lines that I have where people aren't working and then cover it again.

Dave said one thing I want question everybody this year, you know the state has done whatever they are trying to do, we should know more May 19<sup>th</sup>. We are not sure what the federal is going to do this year. And there are no ARPA moneys left. It's going to be a tough year. I just want to for warn everybody going forward we may have to really cut corners to make ends meet.

Chris said speaking of the doge(Department of Government Efficiency) cuts and the governor and all the things that he is doing. I submitted the request for reimbursement from the multi hazard mitigation plan grant, where we renewed the multi hazard mitigation plan, hopefully it gets paid for but it was part of the

doge cuts and it was a couple months ago they sent out that email said we don't know if we will be able to pay these or not.

Dave said that's what I'm trying to say, we are going to have to be cautious this year and going forward. Thanks Chris.

**Sherri Thompson, Cobi Wells – Health Department radios**

Sherri said Cobi couldn't be here this morning. Did everyone get a copy of the estimates that was emailed. The Commissioner's did approve the radio that Cobi suggested and they approved the lessor amount for the radios.

Todd asked what is the lessor amount.

Sherri said it looks like it is the \$2207.28 per radio.

Todd said there is one quote for \$15,000 and the other for \$22600.

Bev asked how many radios are you needing?

Sherri said six. The one for \$15,000 is the same as the front one from Tech Electronics and it's \$2200. Those are comparable prices so they approved the one from Tech Electronics for \$2207 and I don't have a total.

Dave said so it's around \$15,000.

Sherri said yes.

Dave asked did the Commissioner's recommend where to pull that from?

Sherri said I would like to use carry over money from the HFI. Because we have carry over of \$95,000 there.

Greg said by needing six radios, I assume you have six employees.

Sherri said yes.

Greg said six people in the health department for Randolph County.

Sherri said yes, we do. Also, Cobi was talking like let's say one person was out and another company, I think the Gas company their radios weren't working at one point, we could loan that out to them to use if we had extra. But right now, we do have six people working at the health department.

Todd asked what is the annual cost to keep the radios going?

Sherri said right now we don't have any radios that work.

Todd said I mean we always find with these radios that you pay for them and then you pay for them again because they have a maintenance contract. Do you know what the ongoing cost of it is.

Sherri said I don't. According to Cobi about every five years they would need.



Todd said personally, when we talked about this a month ago. We have radios that we haven't used. They've fallen to a state of disrepair or they've been lost and we've gotten along this long without them. Do we really need them. I've worked for companies that have had radios and what tends to happen is when they don't get used a lot people get tired of carrying them around and they end up sitting somewhere and then an emergency happens and nobody really even has the radio on them. If the health department has six radios, six employees, are you going to carry these radios around all the time. Sit them by your bed. It becomes something after a while you get tired of carrying them around. I just wonder do we really need them. I know it's only \$15,000 but it ends up being more than that because we end up paying for a maintenance contract, that ends up paying for them twice and then we start the cycle all over again when we get lost or to a state of disrepair. How many times when we had the radios did we actually use them. I can't answer that question but I feel like we bought vehicles, now were buying radios. It seems like we're buying a lot of equipment over the last couple of years. I just want to make sure that we're not just doing it. That we actually really need it.

Bev asked how many of the Health Department employees work external to the office?

Sherri said we have the School liaison who is out at all the schools, we have the Sanitarian who does food and septic and then we have the clinic nurse and the county nurse that goes out and does immunizations.

Bev said so five?

Sherri said yes.

Bev asked what make the sixth?

Sherri said that would be me.

Bev said you do have a phone at the office.

Sherris said yes, the reason why the preparedness officer felt like we needed the radios, because we found that during the tornado, cell use was down, we couldn't use it, we couldn't contact anybody. We couldn't get our people coordinated because of that. He felt like this would help us to be able to stay in contact, we would also be able to be in contact with the police, EMS, that type of thing.

Dave asked are there any other questions for Sherri?

Larry said one question Sherri, on the quotes you sent if I read it right, those quotes were only good until November 1, 2024.

Sherri said he has spoken with them.

Dave asked what is everybody's wishes. Do you want her to go back and see about maintenance contracts?

Bev said I think it needs to be. That is an expense that may be equal to the radios themselves. We need to know what the total cost would be.

Greg asked Sherri would you go through your list of people again for me please. I got the School liaison and the food inspection and the county nurse.

Sherri said yes and we have the clinic nurse.

Greg said clinic nurse, what does she do?

Sherri said she does the immunization in the clinic, the county nurse helps with that but she does like TB, Lead assessments and that type of stuff.

Greg said and then?

Sherri said there is the Coordinator/Registrar. We have Eric Devin who is the Environmentalist, then we have Tammy Pruitt, the school liaison, Wendy McDavid who is the public health nurse, Marita Runkle who is the Clinic nurse. There's Cobi, he's contracted and then there's Dr. Sowinski and then we have another contracted girl that works there.

Todd said please consider whether or not you really need, when you come back with the maintenance dollar amount, make sure. If the reasoning behind it we weren't, we were having trouble during the tornado emergency. I'm not sure all six people, when I hear what they do, that they would be required for that kind of emergency. Like school liaison, how's that work with a tornado emergency.

Sherri said she's a nurse.

Todd said I understand that she's a nurse but in her role as school liaison. Please carefully consider whether you really need these radios.

Scott said I think where the council members are going with this is are those six employees going to take them home with them. The Health Department probably ought to have two or three maybe. Especially if there's tornado warnings going off and stuff like that. The question is are all your employees going to take them home with them and have them turned on and be on call. Are those six employees on call after hours. If they're not all on call the question is do you need six of them or not. I could see where two or three could be a real asset in a disaster, do we need six. I don't know. We also need to know whether there is going to be any type of monthly service plans on them or not.

Sherri said I feel like it's one of those things, we may not use it all the time but when we need it, it's important to have. We can definitely look at all that.

Dave said what we're asking Sherri is to bring back your ideas to the next meeting and a contract for the maintenance.

Sherri said okay, we can do that.

Dave said one other thing, senate bill 1 has reduced the health department funding.

Sherri said yes, we have not gotten those numbers yet. We are still waiting on those.

Dave said we have a joint meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> of May with our Financial consultant and we're wanting to see where everything lands.

Sherri said as soon as I get something, I can send it to Laura if you'd like.

Dave said it went from \$150 million down to \$100 million now down to \$40 million.

Sherri said right.



Greg said it sounds like some of those employees won't be there.

Dave said I can't answer that.

Greg said I understand.

Sherrie said it just depends on, it's not going to be across the board, so we don't have any idea what our numbers are going to be.

**Sherri Thompson, Kimbra Reynold, Stephanie Patterson -Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition, Suicide Overdose Fatality Review funding**

Sherrie said the Commissioners were in favor of this but it was not voted on because they would like to see a contract with them first. But they would like to go ahead and present if that's okay with you.

Kimbra said good morning my name is Kimbra Reynolds with the Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition. I'm the executive director there.

Stephanie said my name is Stephanie Patterson with Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition and I am a prevention coordinator and also a suicide overdose fatality review facilitator.

Kimbra said why we are here, we wanted to discuss the possibility of a suicide and overdose fatality review here in Randolph County. So, we are going to talk about what we have done in Jay County. We are going to take you on a road trip if you'll look at the packet that we handed out. We began our overdose fatality review in 2019, of course COVID hit and then we had to do a restart in late 2020. We then hired Stephanie who is a Randolph County resident in September of 2022 and she is now the coordinator of that. The reasons why we implemented suicide and overdose fatality review was before 2018 there was hardly any data except for things that we ranked high in which was not necessarily a good thing to be ranked high in. We were highest in 2016 for non-fatal emergency room deaths associated with over doses. That was based on the per capita of course. And that was with only two opioid deaths and zero alcohol related deaths. In 2017 there were 16 deaths related to overdoses and four related to alcohol. Six of these individuals were under the age of 25. We also ranked 22<sup>nd</sup> out of all 92 counties 22<sup>nd</sup> for neonate absenive syndrome death. And then in 2016 we also jumped to 3<sup>rd</sup> in the state for new hepatitis C cases and again number 1 in non-fatal emergency room deaths in 2017. Those are not necessarily things we want to be ranked high in. So, in 2018 we formed some individuals with first responders, the judges, the sheriff, different individuals in our community to write funding to support a suicide and overdose fatality review committee to look at things that could be brought to our community to make a change. So, over the years we have reviewed 58 entered cases. So, 58 of those, that is our total for the five years. We had 58 total cases, we had the opportunity to review each case. Out of those 58 we had 438 recommendations that were the common theme. We pull individuals together, we put together a timeline on a white board from earth to death any interactions school, family issues, medications.

Stephanie said judicial systems, mental, social media, family, there are times where I do a next of kin interview if someone is willing to do that with me. So, I will share that information. There is just a menagerie of things. If they've been in recovery. If they have been an active youth. If they have been seen by a mental health professional, we bring all of that information together to see if there may have been any lapses where someone in the community or a business or an organization maybe could have reached out or have learned from the lapse. They will look and say we don't want this to happen again. We've had some policy changes, we have had people coming together. Different organization coming together, they will overlap services if needed. It's some people tend to think maybe it's a silo and we want to make sure that there are no silo's.



Kimbra said we look at like missed opportunities.

Stephanie said yes.

Kimbra said that the community could have collaborated on to create change and save lives. We create short term intermediate and long term goals and we base those on the data that we have and the individuals lives. So, the next page with this beautiful brightly colored chart you'll see our case demographics. There's one error on that page, it says no high school diploma under education, that is supposed to say high school diploma. And then you can see the number of children that were impacted. The unknown is they may have not been from our community but they overdosed and died in our community. The next is our short term intermediate and action goals. So, our short term goals, these are things that we were able to accomplish within the first six months of the theme, of the continuous theme of the 438. One of them was we have our emergency nurse that was part of our overdose fatality review and we also have peer recovery coaches. Peer recovery coaches are individuals that are in long term recovery, two years or longer. One of them stated that when I would go to the emergency room and get an addictive medicine they'd hand me a prescription and a packet and say here read this on your own and then they would leave and they would throw that information away. So, the nurse suggested what if we were to like physically talk with them and explain the threat. The recovery coach said that would mean a lot more to me knowing that person cared. We also had our law enforcement distribute peer information and connect individuals to service providers. We've had police officers walk individuals in that wanted peer recovery support. They would still arrest the ones that obviously needed it but let's say they didn't have any drugs or paraphernalia on them and they became a resource broker by saying hey do you want help, let me help you and then hands them off. So that collaboration is a continuum, it's not something like yea okay well I can't arrest you so goodbye. They really care so they put that effort into making that referral or walking them in the door. Intermediate actions we've implemented handle with care with our SOR officer at the Jay County school system and we began providing grief support. There's a group that gathers in Portland another in a smaller community that provides support, so we were able to give that to the families. Long term goals, that's a five year plan, we are renovating a recovery residence for safe housing for men because of the number of individuals that overdosed once they left jail. We had a 33% of individuals that left jail that died within 24 hours. We also have the integrated reentry and correctional support program. Many of the individuals had long term incarceration or short term incarceration that wanted help inside the jail and they had told their loved ones or they had told other individuals, so that is implemented now. So, what did we learn from these collaboration and leadership it's essential to making sure that the community level changes happen. Action oriented we don't point blame, we don't point blame on any organization that's there. We look at how could we have prevented this death as a community as a whole. And we also empower the individuals that are in recovery, they're the ones that have been there done that. They should have a voice at the table to allow us to change our community. And then again Community engagement builds success, inviting even individuals that may not agree with your belief and ferocity to be at that table because they can become your biggest allies in community level change. Now onto Randolph Counties data, if you'll see the number of overdoses going back to 2020 and the number of suicides, that's a total of 13 individuals that lost their lives. 2021 fourteen fatal overdoses, six suicide for a total of 20 individuals, 2022 thirteen and six for a total of 19, in 2023 five overdoses, three deaths by suicide and in 2024 six overdoses and five suicides, 11 people and as of 2025 right now and usually the state is about 3 months behind by the time all the information funnels down, one fatal overdose and two suicides. Those are alarming numbers and we have been in conversations with the state and the local health department on how we as an organization can assist in helping those individuals in the community across the county, here in Randolph County. So, why, there is obviously some missed opportunity for intervention, those opportunities will be given data driven decisions specific to Randolph County of changes that could happen, reducing adverse childhood experiences, one of those things that we do with the handle with care is if an individual, if a child is in a home where there's an overdose, but



not just an overdose let's say grandpa lives with them and grandpa has a heart attack, that's traumatic for that child so the first responders fill out a form and send it to the SRO, the SRO then handles it within the school system to give that child just a little bit of grace that day, let's say they forgot their chrome book or they are tired and not performing well in their classroom, just give them a little bit of grace so that you're not retraumatizing them and saying why did you do that, why aren't you, you know just helping them a little bit with some grace. We've increased a lot of community resources and support, there's also a lot of changing lives going on, we currently have 46 individuals in active recovery that are working with recovery coaches. We have recovery coaches that come to Randolph County from Jay County through our recovery works program. Lowering first responder calls, one of our Commissioner's is also a first responder. He's commented that those calls for overdoses have dropped drastically over the past five years. Reducing stigma, mental health and substance abuse disorder, those individuals are also seeking help and going to officers and first responders as well as walking into offices that need help and then of course we're improving our systems and preventing future deaths. These are all the things as to why we suggest you guys invest in an overdose and fatality review. One of the things we talked to the Commissioner's about yesterday is the opioid settlement dollars, they fall right in line with the overdose and fatality review based on the statute and for the first year we always recommend going back at least two years to look at patterns, see if there is anything that was going on in the community, look at if there were any common themes with those deaths and of course it takes a while to get everybody to the table because people are scared they don't want the blame to be pointed to them even though that is not what we're trying to do. We're trying to build collaboration and build community change. So, we go back and try to review the first two years and then after that it's on a yearly basis and individual should not be reviewed until at least 6 months post death because it's very hard to have all the data as well as the next of kin interview, things are still very fresh, so we always wait at least 6 months. So, the first year we are asking for \$20,000 for Stephanie to lead the Randolph County suicide and overdose fatality review and then then following years it would be \$10,000.00 out of the opioid settlement dollars. Stephanie, what she didn't mention is she is also a National presenter, she and I were just at the overdose national fatality conference and we were able to share what we have done and been able to mentor a couple of other counties that are interested.

Dave asked are there any questions.

Greg said I've got two or three. How is Stephanie going to be paid? Is she going to be an employee of Randolph County for this \$20,000.00?

Dave said that sounds like a contract and that would be up to the County Commissioner's.

Larry said I think based on yesterday's meeting, you're supposed to bring a contract back to the Commissioner's.

Kimbra said yes I am. We are a 501c3, so we would be able to provide a contract and we contract with other organizations to provide services that are out of our county. In Jay county we also do Blackford and Delaware, not overdose fatality review but other programming through a contract.

Greg said also on your Randolph County data chart, do you have any reason why all the sudden from 22 to 23 things dropped so dramatically?

Kimbra said no and that's why we would go back and review to see was something changed in the community, was there all the sudden Narcan boxes, was there all the sudden maybe some offenders that were drug dealers that are no longer around in the community, there's all kinds of things you can look at.

Greg said that would be about the time everybody was coming out of the COVID thing.

Kimbra said true.

Todd said you would not have the ability to look back any further than prior to COVID?

Kimbra said we can.

Todd said if we were doing this I would encourage us to take a look at the years before COVID too just so we could see whether or not there was some sort of affect from everybody being home. I think if you are trying to find patterns and trends make sure that wasn't a peak or something related to COVID. Because I had the same questions of what changed.

Kimbra said sure.

Dave said is there any other questions.

Greg said would this be drastically effected by the new budget too?

Laura said the opioid funding is separate from, it's a settlement several years ago there were law suits throughout the state on opioid use. Those lawsuits that the people won, we received funding from those lawsuits. It can only be used for specific opioid related correction type stuff. This funding is sitting in our bank account and the only thing we have actually spent any of it on was earlier this year or the end of last year there was a motivational speaker that came and spoke at the schools. I think it was \$8,000.00 that we spent out of the opioid funding. There are so many restrictions on it that it can't be used for everyday business.

Scott asked do you know what the balance is in that account?

Laura said it should be on your spreadsheet that Sherrie sends you, I don't have that information with me to look at.

Sherrie said yes it's on the spreadsheet fund 1237 and 1238.

Scott asked are we able to pay that initial \$20,000 out of there?

Laura said yes.

Bev said it will be interesting to see what kind of contract comes to the Commissioner's. Thank you for what your do.

Mike asked do we need to wait for the contract?

Laura said yes, they tabled it because they wanted to see the contract.

Scott said I'm in favor if they approve it.

Mike said I am too.

Dave said we will let them get a contract and then we will approve the funding.

Kimbra said okay. Thank you.



Stephanie said thank you so much for your time.

Kimbra said and our contact information is on that last sheet if you have any questions or want to email us.

**Susan Fakharzadeh, Vault-Cardinal Ethanol project**

Susan said my name is Susan Fakharzadeh the k is silent. I with Vault 4401 we are a carbon capture and sequestration company and I am joined today by Adam Hunt our project manager and also in the wings is Rob Davis, CEO of Cardinal Ethanol. We don't want to take up a lot of your time today, you obviously have heard a lot of important topics and what we'd like to do is talk a little bit about a project that we're working on here in Randolph County. Talk a little bit about some activity that's happening at the state around this type of work that is occurring across Indiana and then really just spend a lot of time answering questions and making ourselves available to you because we realize although this isn't new technology, it may be new to Randolph County and we want to make ourselves available to you to answer any questions you might have. Thank you to Laura, we had sent out a deck of slides and I hope you have that in front of you.

Scott said it was in our email.

Susan said okay, I apologize for not having printed copies for you, but we'll get through a little bit of details about One Carbon Partnership so Adam I'll turn it over to you.

Adam said thank everyone for taking sometime today to listen about the project. I won't go into to many specifics of what's on the slides because everybody doesn't have it so I'll keep it fairly high level, we have lots of time for questions at the end. First of all, we have a partnership called One Carbon Partnership which is a 50/50 joint venture between Cardinal Ethanol and Vault 4401. We don't need to introduce Cardinal Ethanol most people in the area are familiar with them. Vault 4401 we're the parent company of Vault Holdings is a carbon capture and storage developer. So, we've got team really experienced in the area, operated and completed a lot of projects safely with carbon capture and storage. So, that's really the partnership and to just kind of explain a little more about the project. What does the project do? Essentially we're installing carbon capture and storage equipment at Cardinal Ethanol. Why Cardinal ethanol is a great option is when you produce ethanol you get pretty much pure CO<sub>2</sub> as part of that fermentation process. We'll work with them at their site to essentially install infrastructure that gathers that carbon dioxide, compresses it and then stores it or injects into basically subsurface formations on site. There's real no pipeline, everything happens on site all the materials and equipment installed is suitable for carbon dioxide to safely transport it, just on site, it's only a few hundred feet basically from where we take the CO<sub>2</sub> compress it and then inject it on site. So, all of the infrastructure is local, happens right next to the fermenter tanks, there's nothing off site that's really happening. The CO<sub>2</sub> from producing ethanol is very clean, it's 99.9% CO<sub>2</sub> so it doesn't have any other impurities or anything like that. That's kind of the basic what the project infrastructure is. There's probably a lot of general questions about what is carbon capture and storage. It is kind of self-explanatory we capture that CO<sub>2</sub> and by capturing it currently right now it just vents into the atmosphere at the stack right next to the fermenter tank. We just divert it over to another building where we compress it, dehydrate it then send it out to an injection well where it's injected into a formation below ground that's about between 3100 and 3700 feet below ground. There's a formation in Indiana and kind of through the Midwest sandstone it's a porous formation, kind of think of a hard sponge below ground, and we inject CO<sub>2</sub> into that formation and it stays there permanently. It's been done in the past, it's a safe well known technology and Indiana is a great state to do carbon capture. The part of the reason we want to do it with Cardinal Ethanol it basically helps them be more competitive, there's a tax credit associated with sequestering the CO<sub>2</sub>. EPA is kind of the governing body for these types of projects in Indiana where the state doesn't control it.



Some states do control carbon capture and storage. Indiana it's at a federal level so the EPA is the one that manages the permitting process. We're well through that permitting process with the EPA getting close to them basically completing the technical review application. We've been in review with them for I think it's 28 months now so it is a long process. They look at all aspects of the project to make sure what we're doing here in this area is suitable and safe. Basically, just a little bit more on technically how it's done. There's kind of a main components, there's compression where we just take that CO<sub>2</sub>, we compress it so that way we have the ability to inject it below ground. So, it's permanent storage when we inject it below ground. There's one injection well that pushes the CO<sub>2</sub> below ground and then there's a couple other monitoring wells essentially monitoring that the CO<sub>2</sub> stays where we plan it to stay. There's a well within the formation that kind of monitors what's happening there and then there's wells that are shallower to make sure that none of that CO<sub>2</sub> is migrating out of where we put it. There's very solid and permeable layers of rock below ground. Then we do other things like seismic monitoring where we do seismic surveys that essentially shake the ground to see what's happening below ground and we can image the CO<sub>2</sub> that we've sent down there. So, we can tell if the CO<sub>2</sub> is staying where we plan for it to stay. In the unlikely event of a leak, I say unlikely and very unlikely there's lots of safe guards in place both with the equipment above ground, we can sense if something is leaking and we can shut it down immediately and the same thing below ground if any of our monitoring senses that we have below ground are detecting anything abnormal we have the ability to shut it down immediately. Lots of safety systems in place. Get a little bit away from the technical and talk about the land owner support. Cardinal Ethanol is a big supporter of the community a lot of local farmers send their corn to Cardinal Ethanol, we've got excellent voluntary participation from all the land owners in the area so it's part of injecting CO<sub>2</sub> below ground, you need to get an agreement with the land owner if the CO<sub>2</sub> is going to be below their property. Potentially we have over 98% voluntary participation from local land owners that are supportive of the project we have agreements in place that if we store CO<sub>2</sub> below their property they get paid for what we call pore space below ground. Also, I mentioned seismic survey, so we need access in and around the community to perform those surveys and we also have a very high uptake I think close to 95% participation of those land owners that are a little farther out that don't actually have CO<sub>2</sub> under their property. So, they get a fee for us having access to their property to perform these surveys what's planned to be every 5 years. That's quite a bit of an overview of the project. I'll stop there and open the floor for questions unless there's anything you want to add Susan.

Susan said the only thing I'll add and I'm sure we want to really save a lot of time for questions. Adams the project manager. I'm responsible for government relations and external affairs and Adam mentioned that this project is regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency in Washington DC. The state of Indiana starting in 2022 actually passed a significant amount legislation on how to supplement that regulatory structure. So, the state is going through their rule making process right now and that basically helps them identify a funding resource at the Department of Natural Resource so that they can make sure that it is also regulated in accordance with Indiana State law and make sure that the statute here in Indiana protects land owners, ensures that folks are participating, compensated for their participation in the project. So, that rule making is occurring right now. It's going to be happening there's a public comment period that is open to the end of May and we expect the State of Indiana rules to complete by this fall. I bring all of that up because Adam mentioned that Indiana is a great place for this to happen and Indiana is actually the leader in this type of activity for three reasons. Basically, with the ethanol facilities here in Indiana you have the emissions source. There's a lot of CO<sub>2</sub> going into the air right now as a result of just the process of producing ethanol. As Adam mentioned, you have the Mt Simon, which is the really big formation that covers multiple states here, particularly in the eastern corn belt. But what makes Indiana unique is their ability to have gotten ahead of this process and said we support CCS and we want to make sure that it's regulated and we understand what's happening in these communities. And so those three things together give Indiana a significant advantage. The state of Illinois just passed their first round of legislation last August. The state of Ohio has just introduced legislation. So, this is really a great opportunity for those farmers from counties around provide corn to places like Cardinal to help



Cardinal to really modernize their facility and build a long term sustainable model and demand for corn for the future. We're really excited to be a part of this process and open to any questions you might have.

Greg said how long at the current rate of carbon dioxide development, how long is this process going to last?

Adam asked do you mean the project itself or?

Greg asked how much capacity do you have below?

Adam said I'll start with the tax credit side, that's a 12 year process, tax credits are for 12 years. But we're actually permitting it with EPA for 25 to 30 years to the end of life of the project. The reservoir can take a lot more than that but that's basically what permitting the project for.

Bev said and when you say the reservoir, that would be where it's being held underground?

Adam said yes that formation is called a mount Simon sandstone that really just acts as a sponge.

Bev said for the compressed CO2.

Adam said yes.

Susan said this formation as I mentioned goes under multiple states, it's a really massive stand of geography and we look at a significant portion of it for each project where we're going to be able to safely sequester permanently the product into that porous rock basically. We call it a reservoir, people think of like a jelly donut but it's really much more as Adam described like a semi porous stone that can hold the compressed CO2 permanently.

Bev asked and how far down is that 3100 feet.

Adam said yes, the interval is 3100 to 3700. So, we will be drilling the well essentially down to 3700 feet.

Larry said Scott and I came over for a visit and seen this presentation thank you for that. So, the surrounding land owners, farmers will get a monetary enhancement for having the CO2 under their ground and the surrounding might get a little for areas you need to test. Correct?

Adam said that is true.

Larry said and at that time there was 62 maybe, when we met with you?

Susan said that sounds right. I don't know if we have that number.

Bev asked 62 what?

Larry said landowners around the CO2.

Susan said that sounds right, I can follow up with that exact number. I don't have it here. But that is approximately correct.

Todd asked how do you determine that the 9000 acres was suitable? Is it pretty basically drawing a circle around the well. I mean surely you can't tell how far out that penetrates and will fit in that perfect circle.

Adam said there is a bit of a process. So, it starts with essentially we take the information that we know is out there and we model a scenario of when we inject CO<sub>2</sub> how it's going to spread out. We know in the real world it's probably going to be a little bit different. So, that's part of that Sizmek survey and also the monitoring wells we have in place. The Sizmek survey can actually image the CO<sub>2</sub> directly below ground so you can tell where it's spreading so if we have a case where it's kind of going in a direction where we didn't expect. We don't have those land owners signed up, absolutely we reach out to those land owners, we talk to them, we also talk to the state. It's a bit of a process, if it starts moving a direction we don't expect there's more work for us to do. That being said that's an issue that would be a little bit further out because you know we've got 12 years, what we expect the plume to be in 12 years all signed up. Maybe there's a case where getting to year 10 it's slightly going in a different direction and we'd have much advanced notice of that and try to work through that with land owners.

Dave said a question I have, your within a half a mile of Union City. I think you done testing two years ago.

Adam said yes, we did a Sizmek survey in November 2023.

Dave said and by the expansion you said it potentially could go farther.

Adam said it's unlikely it can go a little bit further and the plume is actually quite a bit smaller than that. When you do the Sizmek survey you actually have to do it in a much larger area. It actually comes down to kind of the angle of the sound vibrations, the have to come down at a fairly steep angle so we go out more than twice beyond what we think just for the Sizmek to work.

Dave said the other question I have, your right about the state of Indiana, the senate bill, it was questioned pretty hard this year. It looks like it will probably be questioned again. I'm not sure where that fits within this project. There are other areas in Indiana that experienced the same thing currently. Where else are you guys at in relationship to other projects? Is this your first one?

Adam said so this is Vault's furthest one along in development. I think we have 7 contracted projects in Indiana, Ohio and Illinois as well.

Todd asked how much pressure are we talking about?

Susan said that is a great question actually.

Adam said so at surface it's about 1400 to 1500 psi is what we compress the CO<sub>2</sub>. That's a big function of how deep the well is. The deeper you go the higher the pressure below ground so at this location we need about 1400 to 1500 psi to inject it below ground.

Todd said and what if there was an explosion?

Susan said a release.

Adam said an explosion would be the very worst case. We model above ground what would happen, like how much CO<sub>2</sub> is in the system at that point. It's called the aspersion analysis and how that CO<sub>2</sub> would spread out. CO<sub>2</sub> itself isn't volatile, it's not explosive or anything but we look at where the CO<sub>2</sub> would



be released, we did studies on that and given it's a short distance from where you compressed it to actually the well head, the impact area is only a couple hundred feet around that area.

Susan said one of the things we talked about a lot is CCS is a big topic across the nation, in fact the white house released a press release talking about the importance of carbon capture and energy and dependance for America just on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Many CCS projects are very different. This one does not have a pipeline that is taking product off site to a well that is in a different location. This is all being done on property. We're not talking about really large trans state pipelines. We're talking about pretty small transmission lines to get it from as Adam said where the emission source is to being compressed and being put under grounds. I think that is where some of the legislation is so important. Is because projects here in Indiana are very different than projects that might be happening in other states. Another thing that is important to note is as Adam mentioned earlier is what we are compressing and putting underground is over 99% pure. CO<sub>2</sub> is what's coming out of my mouth right now, it's what's in the carbonated beverages and beers we drink at the end of the day. So, it's not itself harmful and so what we are trying to do is help people understand how this process and this particular project might be different then some of the other things we see or hear about.

Scott said two questions. Are the tax credits guaranteed and what happens to the project if the tax credits go away?

Susan said that's a great question and we anticipate the tax credits to be pretty secure for years to come. Not only because of the recent announcements in the white house about how important carbon capture is but because these tax credits have been around grown and augmented by bipartisan support through the Bush administration, through Obama, through Trumps first administration, through Biden all of these tax credits have survived. So, we do see a continued runway. I think it's important to note though that tax credits aren't really designed to be there in perpetuity. The intention for a tax credit is to allow markets to adapt and as technology's introduced, proven technologies introduced and implemented voluntary credit markets can eventually one day take up that and fill that space so that a business model doesn't necessarily rely on tax credits. That being said we're very confident in the tax credit for the duration of this project.

Dave said all of your tax credits come from the federal government is that correct?

Adam said that is correct, part of the inflation reduction act known as 45Q.

Bev said you may or may not know but at one time I sat on a board with the ethanol plant but at that time they were capturing the CO<sub>2</sub> and selling it. Do you know if they are doing that at all or is that not something they are doing anymore.

Adam said I can speak at a little detail about it. Rob can certainly speak more but they do sell a little bit on site to I believe it's air products and that is purified a little bit for beverage grade tier 2 but that's not the entire volume of CO<sub>2</sub> that they have.

Rob said we sell roughly 33% of the current emission stream and it goes into beverage grade. It also goes into poultry farming.

Bev said interesting. Thank you.

Dave ask will that go away then.

Rob said yes.

Greg said I have two questions. Can that carbon, say sometime down the road all the sudden there's a huge market for CO2 can that be recaptured?

Adam said not once it's injected below ground. It's down there permanently.

Greg said also you mentioned at the beginning of your presentation that you were a 50/50 partnership with Cardinal. Could you explain or expand on that a little.

Adam said so 50/50 ownership so we share 50/50 of the cost up front to pay for the entire project and then essentially 50/50 percent of the tax credits or revenues associated with the project.

Greg said 50/50 split on the expense only?

Adam said and revenue. Associated just with the Carbon dioxide.

Greg asked where does the revenue come from?

Adam said the tax credits essentially.

Dave asked anything else? This has been very informative. So, the public hearings are next week, right?

Susan said there is actually a lot of steps. We're actually hosting an open house on May 21<sup>st</sup> out at Cardinal if anyone would like to attend there will be an ad in the paper. We'd love to have you out there to answer more questions. There is the state rule making which doesn't really impact our project, it's just how the state of Indiana is going to establish the carbon organization at the Department of Natural Resources. So that occurs at the end of the month. And really what is next for us is a continuation of our permit through the approval process at the EPA. We're looking to see next steps on that late summer early fall to get us actually moving into operational stages which is very exciting.

Dave said I see in your slide presentation you gave to us there is a public hearing May 29<sup>th</sup>.

Susan said correct. That's the state rule making.

Greg asked have you started construction out there on this project?

Adam said not physically on site. We've got a lot of equipment ordered and manufactured and ready to go. The EPA process is taking a lot longer than they had initially told us. We are waiting on that before we can actually physically do much on site.

Dave said I do set on a state legislative committee for the County Council Association of the State of Indiana. I know this was brought up heavily this year. I'm not sure what direction that our group has committed to. I'll share that when I know more.

Rob said in reference to what Greg said. The equipment is big but it's not overwhelming. It won't take up much space.

Adam said it's all on site. Maybe to give you some specifics the building that we're putting in. I think it's about 95 feet long 75 feet wide and maybe 40 feet, it's a reasonable size building but most of it fits in there and then there's another smaller electrical building and a few well heads that you'll see but in the grand scheme of all the infrastructure on site at Cardinal Ethanol it's smaller than that.



Susan said just to follow up legislation was passed and it was signed by Governor Braun in April. We've actually had Governor Braun out to the Cardinal facility last August when he was still Senator Braun and really exciting opportunity and he was excited to see all of this happening in our back yard. If anybody is interested we'd love to host you at the open house. Have you out there, really appreciative of all your time and question today and to see you all. I would really be remiss if I didn't say thank you for your time and interest in this important topic. I know there is a lot of questions. We're really grateful for all the support from the land owners as Adam mentioned. I think another thank you is due to Randolph County United, that economic development arm has been really important to us and been a great resource to us. We're really appreciative of the way the community has leaned in and learned and looking forward to the next steps.

Scott asked do you have a request for the County Council at this point?

Susan said we don't have a request for you today. Honestly just wanted to come and share some information with you about the project and let you know where we're at. We don't have a request for this group today.

Dave asked anything else. Thanks for coming in.

#### **Brad Dilger – Riverstart Solar update**

Brad said thank you to the Council for the last minute add here. I just wanted to give basically the same update that I was able to share with the Commissioner's yesterday. Where we are with various phases of Riverstart Solar because that is kind of what the main projects that are under construction right now. Kind of going back to a project that we haven't talked about for a while Riverstart I. There has been mentioned in the past previous meetings about a viewing pavilion that will be installed there to really showcase what's been done here in the county with both solar and wind. That's just north of US 36 between 300 and 400 west. Gate 18 if you guys have been out past there. So, that will be a nice temper framed building that is being built by a local company. We'll have a bunch of information about solar in Randolph County and wind as well since it will all be viewable from that spot. So, look to see that progress over the next probably month or two. They're just waiting on dryer weather to just get foundations out there and then get the building actually constructed.

Todd said so the public can pull in there off the highway.

Brad said yea there will be a little parking area there. We don't expect a lot of traffic there.

Todd said it will be unattended. It will just be a place to stop and read.

Brad said correct. There have been various tours that have come through from other counties that have been interested. So, this will be a nice stopping point so we're not taking them to the opps building which is not really set up for tours necessarily or like a substation or just a gate off the highway.

Todd said one of the things that have been talked a lot about with the planning commission is the communication side. And this is a communications venue really. Will you have in this pavilion a place that shows future projects.

Brad said we have just existing projects at the moment. As newer phases and newer both solar and wind come on line we can update that information. Do you mean more specifically for potential phases? It might be if we do that because a lot of those signs are being made so that they are weather proof so not easily changeable but we can see how.

Todd said the more ways of getting word out there the better. If you've got that public place it's an opportunity I think to let people know what's going on.

Brad said I think it's definitely a good consideration to have maybe like an outdoor case that we change out and have current information on. I don't know how often people will stop by but it will be a good spot to have more information.

Bev said you said north of 36 between 300 and 400 west?

Brad said yes mam. They're in the process of moving the fence back right now. So, you may see that activity kind of in the next week or so. They may actually have it done at this point. But I know that was on going just weather dependent. Riverstart III which went operational back in the end of November, December. That's substantially complete and the operations department is taking over that. The one thing that is outstanding on that project is we ran out of warm weather to complete the road repairs. So, we've been working with a contractor to get the repairs done and then the double layer chip and seal over those roads. The warmer weather is generally going to be summer time weather so as we find what that specific time line is going to be we'll inform Jay the county road superintendent and you as well. It will be minimal, there is not a lot roadway to cover there. Riverstart IV which is currently under construction. The substation which is just north of 300 South is substantially complete, they're going through their final checks there with our equipment and AEP's equipment they're the transmission owner and switch yard owner. Pile installation is currently at 75% and generally they are running a little bit behind, they've also been impacted by the wet weather the beginning of this year. So, they're at 75% now and since yesterday's update actually inverter installation is at 100% they were able to set the last two yesterday and then 8% of the modules have been installed. So, they're moving from south west to north east and there is more work to be done there. And then all major deliveries are complete with the inverters and the modules. So, there will be less heavy truck traffic out there. Speaking of the truck traffic and the wet/cold weather the roads have taken a beating out there and you know with the help of Jay kind of bringing it to our attention the contractor's been out there repairing any of the heavily damaged area's with gravel and as we are now out of major deliveries they are going to start doing a little more, not permanent but more stabilization out there to keep the roads in good condition.

Todd asked can I ask you a question. I notice in the zoning board minutes that the inverters have a farther set back then the panel. So, is there a noise factor or what is it about the inverters that makes them unique compared to the panels that you want them farther away from homes?

Brad said there is some audible noise/sounds coming from them. So, the county actually, the ordinance right now has a sound limit that generally keeps them well beyond 500 feet anyway. So, yea we have the sound studies completed to make sure we are in compliance and then also just to make sure we're far enough away to stay within what the ordinance states.

Todd asked are they different size boxes or what are we talking about? I never really notice them before.

Brad said I don't know the specific size of the top of my head but it's probably like the size of a transformer that you see just around. Maybe just off the top of my head it's probably 8 x 12. They just depend on the size and manufacturer. I can follow up with the specifics. With inverters and the sound requirements, we're making sure to comply with the ordinance. But they do hum kind of like any electrical equipment you're going to get a hum out of it. Then moving on to Riverstart V which has been talked about a bit more lately. Working toward permitting and we are being held to a interconnection milestone date for our permits. So, that is why we are moving toward permitting for this month. And then support the final layout, geo tech work is happening out there right now. So, they were out there



yesterday flagging. They're doing some geothermal testing which is trying to test what the soil types can withstand as far as like thermal resistance. They'll be doing additional core drilling to see what the soil types are. That will also inform the final design and electrical testing, resistivity testing and some pile installations. So, that will be happening over the next several weeks, we've been in contact with the land owners about that because it's going to be within the facility foot print itself. And then outreach again with communication with the project neighbors is ongoing and we've got a meeting set up with just the neighbors and the Farm Bureau on Saturday. As we talk about some financial changes within the state and the county and just general project overview with everything we have operational right now, we have about a 700 megawatt operational foot print here in the county and that's between wind and solar. By the end of 2026 it will be up to 950 megawatts and by the end of 2030 we will be over 1.1 gigawatts. With that comes currently there is about 40 full time folks out of the operations office that's between both the Vesta staff and our staff. Vesta they take care of all the turbines here in the area. As we kind of move through into 2030 there should be about 60 to 65 full time folks operating out of that office or that facility. What does that mean over all that's about 1.6 billion dollars of infrastructure once all of that is operational, the 1.1 gigawatts and along with that all the EDA's that have been negotiated with the county, it's about \$65 million over the course of 24 years. When we started in 2014 and through the final EDA that's been signed so far with Headwater's III. So, again just wanted to give those general updates. A lot of you folks heard it yesterday but we just wanted to get it out there again so everybody is kind of up to date. If there are any question I'd be happy to answer them. I don't want to take up any more time.

Dave asked does anybody have any more questions for Brad?

Brad said thank you very much.

#### **Other Business:**

##### **Art Moystner, Randolph County Sheriff**

Dave asked Sheriff do you have anything for us.

Art said I'd just like to give guys a couple quick updates. We implemented the AVL which is the mobile GPS. We've got several of those out in the vehicles. Some interesting things that we have looked at, we've had a few meetings on how those work. The CAD mapping that actually comes to the dispatch, there were some features there that we didn't realize we were going to get. So, it's going to assist the dispatchers a little bit also. We're working through and learning the systems which is good. We have some of the other stuff that's going on and I think these are positive improvements for those. I would share with you that I'd talked to Commissioner Friend about possibly doing an app and there was a comment made earlier about getting the word out for employees and openings for employment that we have here with the employees and that's one of the things I would like to plant the seed of possibly doing an app that I think one of the things that would help is we are trying to get younger generations in. I don't think that they look at things the same as we do not find information the same as we do so it might be a plus. The other side of that it has notifications and one of the things I would note is the last notification we sent out for hyperreach regarding storms, when it came out my son had gotten the message and came out and was talking to me and I didn't receive it until about 4 minutes later. To me that is a bit of a hiccup that needs addressed and I'm not sure we can do that through an app the other sheriffs I've talked to use their app for that type of notification but I think we could integrate some things into that. I just wanted to plant that seed with you that I would like to try and get the Commissioner's to move forward with it and the initial cost is about \$15,000. I'm going to look through my funds and see what I can find but I might come back and ask you for some money to move forward with that. Do you guys have any questions for me.

Todd asked what type of app are we talking about?

Art said it would be a Sheriff's app. The company is called Sheriff's app. You can put multiple buttons on the app but it's just a phone app that we would control through the Sheriff's office and it would put things like recent arrests and things of that nature which is probably one of the most viewed things on the Sheriff's side is the recent arrests page. It would put that there, it would have jail census information on there, who's currently incarcerated, what their incarcerated for. You can add various buttons into that because I would like to share the app with home land security so Chris Shaneyfelt would have the ability to have some of his things posted on there. We could send out post notifications of different things including job openings throughout the county and we could have a link on there that would take everyone to our county web site if there are other things that we want to post that they would look at. But I think in the world we live in today most people live on their cell phones more than they live on their computers and I think if we start moving that direction, I think it would be a benefit to the county. Just my opinion.

Todd said so you are talking about an app that not just sheriffs would have but sheriff's would contribute to that the general public could have.

Art said yes, the general public would have it on their phone. Instead of going to your phone, I think Wayne County actually has one. If you get with me after the meeting I can show you their app. I know we have one through the Indiana Sheriffs Association that I have their app. I can show you what some of those are and what they look like. Some of them do it stand alone others do it in conjunction with the web page so that it can direct to that and have additional information. I think it's something we direct how that's built out and obviously you would only want certain people having control of pushing things out but it's something we could use to send out push notification for job openings whether it's something at county highway, something in the Auditors office, whatever that might be we could push those out. But we could build it out however we would want to build it. But yes, they would have it on their phone. I can tell you with the two young men that live in my house they live on their phone not on their computer.

Todd said you would just have to have some reason to load it on your phone as a general person in Randolph County. You'd have to know about it secondly you'd have to have a desire to have it.

Art said there's a campaign that goes along with the building of the app to get that word out. I can tell you from my standpoint I would probably use the app to replace the social media I have on Facebook. I believe there are several people already in the county that follow the Sheriff's office Facebook page. So, we would put out several notifications on that to build that out. There would also be some flyers that go along with that, that we can get put out. I think you would get a lot of people that would get on that.

Todd said so you raised a question I've had for a while since elections regarding Facebook pages for departments in Randolph County. I saw election results were published on a departmental Facebook page before they were published on the Randolph County web site. Who runs these Facebook pages, is it something an individual?

Art said the only one I can speak to is the one for the Sheriff's office and we run that inhouse. The Sheriff's office runs their Facebook page.

Todd said not anyone person, it's shared by the department?

Art said no, there's certain people that I limit those to. I have the ultimate authority over my Facebook page, over my social media.

Todd said and we're okay with that? Legally for Randolph County Departments to have authorized Facebook pages.



Meeks said it's in the handbook.

Art said I would also stipulate that there's a difference between departments and offices. Because the office holders have control of their own office whereas the Commissioner's would control the department heads or have authority over the department heads of county departments. But elected office holders have a pretty wide latitude of what they are permitted or not permitted and I think the Council and Commissioners are limited in the authority given over an elected office holder. I think there is a distinction between a department and office holder.

Todd said okay, this is a big topic and I don't want to waste you guys time but I've just always kind of wondered how is it as a county government we manage these social media sites and decide who can have one and who can't, what's on them what's not, what information is shared, what's not. It's something I think we should think about someday.

Meeks said there is a policy in the handbook.

Todd said in the employee handbook policy.

Meeks said there is a social media policy in there.

Todd said anybody can create one.

Meeks said you guys could have a Council or you could create a Todd Holaday.

Todd said I'm talking about a county Council.

Meeks said you guys would just have to vote.

Todd said not that I want to.

Meeks said the Commissioners can have their own and Laura can have her own as the Auditor.

Art said that's one of the things I would like to get away from with the Sheriff's office is get away from the social media page and go to app.

Meeks said there are all sorts of rules, how you can limit comments. It can't just be comments you don't like off there. Lots of people like, I would say just have no comments. You could say no comments because that's content neutral, there's no comments, their just giving you information. But once you start commenting on a Facebook page you cannot limit those comments.

Todd said it's public record at that point.

Meeks said yes. Where people get in trouble is deletion of comments. You're going to run into trouble with that. You could say every comment goes away after 30 days because that's content neutral at that point. I'd say just don't have comments.

Todd said it sounds like we might want to have a policy on that.

Meeks said there is a policy. The problem is there's a policy but if you're an elected official, your elected.

Todd said but we couldn't have a policy that says.

Meeks said we can't tell an elected official what to put on their Facebook page or what not to put on there.

Todd said even though it can become a liability of the county?

Meeks said it becomes their liability. They get sued. They will be sued in their individual capacity as that elected official. So, if the Sheriff puts something on there, deletes it, he will be sued.

Art said the Sheriff doesn't do that by the way.

Dave asked anything else?

Art asked does anyone else have questions for me. Thank you

#### **Minutes of April 8, 2025**

Dave said next thing is the minutes of April 8<sup>th</sup>.

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

#### **Winchester Library appointment**

Dave said the next thing we have is a Winchester Library appointment for Douglas Baker.

Todd made a motion to approve. Greg seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

#### **Additional Appropriations:**

##### **Airport**

Overtime	\$5,750.00
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Dave said the first additional appropriation is the airport overtime. What can you tell us Jim?

Jim said I'm here for the appropriation for the overtime. When we did our budget last year we put in for \$6,750 and that was denied down to just \$1000.00 and I believe the minutes for that showed that the plan was to come in with a low number knowing that everybody would have to come back and ask for appropriations later. So, here we are.

Dave said actually it wasn't to come in with a low number it was to come into budget the department.

Scott said I have a question? This is my first year on here but they done away with comp time last year. Are these overtime appropriations related to them doing away with the comp time last year?

Laura said I don't know about every else, but what I did was took the comp time for my office and converted that to my overtime amount and that's what I asked for. Each department head came up with their own numbers. I think according to what Jim had said that is kind of what they had done. Am I correct Jim?

Jim said yes.

Greg asked Jim who?



Jim Michael airport board president. We looked at the past couple years comp time that was earned and figured that on what we would need for overtime.

Larry said you asked for \$6750 and the Council approved \$1,000. I didn't know anything and thanks to Bob he filled me in a little bit. You had a part time employee, went out for medical, so did Eric cover that.

Jim said yes, and there is vacation that have to be covered. They try to work their schedule if Eric knows the part time guy is going to be off for his two days he's supposed to work, they'll switch. So, he'll work Wednesday and Thursday and Eric will work Friday and Saturday that the part time person works.

Larry said the \$5,750 you're asking for is that already used up or is that for the rest of the year?

Jim said that is for the rest of the year. There was only \$1,000 put into the budget and that's used up. So, the \$5,750 is the remaining of the \$6750 that we originally put in for.

Todd said the \$1,000 took us through how many months.

Jim said 4 months Laura?

Laura said yes.

Larry said none of the \$5,750 is allocated right now?

Jim said correct.

Todd said I know this is not a lot of money, I get it. If we spend \$1,000.00 over 4 months and if 4 months is a representation of what it's going to be like over 12 then why wouldn't we be asking for two more thousand to cover the rest of the year instead of \$5,750. My feeling as a manager is the amount of money you a lot for overtime is the amount of money you end up spending for overtime because the employee decides that's my money I'm going to work those hours and get that money. If we spent \$1,000 over 4 months why would we not spend \$1,000 the next four months and \$1,000 the next four months. Even that 4 months when we had to cover for somebody who was out so it should have a little higher than user. That's just how I'm thinking as a person who manages a department and I have to answer to somebody who says your spending too much, you need to manage your overtime. We had to cut our overtime out completely for years. So, it's a point of pressure in most businesses to manage your overtime. I'm not trying to give you a hard time.

Jim said that's fine. Pretty much what you said when we did the budget in the first place. I believe it was word for word to shoot a little low. That's in the minutes and that's what we did and now we're here again. If we shoot a little low again, we may have to come back again in another 6 or 7 months and do this same thing again. I'm here on my own time, not getting paid for this.

Todd said so if we shoot high, it will be interesting to see where we come in at, at the end of the year. I'm just saying people tend to use the amount of money that is budgeted and if the \$1,000 has worked out and this is the year of pain because we're trying to figure out what we should budget because we didn't really know.

Jim said I know the \$1,000 wasn't a total 4 months because we had our last meeting in the middle of April and we had already had to ask for extra money by then.

Laura said it takes a month for these appropriation to get to this point.

Jim said I'd say the \$1,000 was probably the first three months.

Larry said your speaking as the board Jim?

Jim said correct.

Larry said I apologize a couple of us our new so I didn't know what happened last year as far as the appropriation.

Jim said this is new for everybody. For all you guys doing away with the comp time. Chris Shaneyfelt is in here doing the same thing. I believe the Highway Department has already asked for appropriations on their overtime too. We all get it that this is new territory for all of us. We can shoot low again with the intention of having to come back in. That's your decision.

Todd asked what is the budgeted hours per week?

Jim said I believe it's 58 hours a week.

Todd said 18 of that is covered by a part time person?

Jim said I think it's 58 what's budgeted but they don't work 58.

Dave said I think your budgeted for 68 and your open.

Jim said maybe it's 68 but we only work 58.

Dave said you have plenty of part time money.

Larry said you have to be there 58 hours to cover the FAA.

Jim said with the FAA grants and so forth we're required to be open so many days, so many hours and so forth. We don't want to lose any of the FAA grant money. Part of the overtime is also with the way holidays are, Indiana holidays, Martin Luther King, Election day stuff like that, we still have to be opened because the FAA grants so that's considered overtime.

Bev said maybe the number should be a little bit more, maybe \$3,000 for the rest of the year.

Larry said that or like Todd said we cut the \$5,750 in half. Then if they have to come back so be it.

Dave said what I'd like to see on overtime I want to see the hours actually worked. I want a report in here.

Larry said that is kind of what happened yesterday.

Jim said don't you have that report Laura?

Laura said yes, nobody has asked me for it until just now.

Dave said as a representative of the airport board or whoever they should have that report also.



Jim said you want it now (pulled report out of his briefcase).

Dave said yea, I'd like to take a look at it. I'm not sure why that wasn't presented.

Jim said I guess no one asked for it. Like Laura said.

Dave said we shouldn't have to ask for it if you're asking for money. I'm like Todd and everybody else. I think a couple thousand would probably do it and let the chips fall where they fall on overtime.

Todd made a motion to approve \$3,000.00 of overtime appropriation to cover the rest of the year. Bev seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

### **Airport**

Fly-in Breakfast                \$2,000.00

Dave said we have the Fly-in Breakfast of \$2,000.00.

Larry made a motion to approve. Todd seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Bev asked is that June 6<sup>th</sup>?

Jim said it's the 7<sup>th</sup> on Saturday.

Todd asked what time does that start?

Jim said 6:00 am. I'd love to see everybody out there. We're supposed to be having a B25 come in this year. It was supposed to last year.

### **Tourism**

Rent                                \$6,000.00

Dave said next we have tourism rent \$6,000.

Greg said if I understood correctly that's for a year. Right?

Laura said yes.

Larry made a motion to approve. Greg seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

### **CCMG 2024-2**

Match for 800 E                \$200,000.00

Dave said the next one we have is the CCMMG 2024-2 it's the match for 800 E of \$200,000. That's asphaltting a road I believe.

Todd made a motion to approved. Scott seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

### **CCD – RCFFO**

Building Maintenance    \$20,000.00

Dave said the last one I have here for additional is CCD for the RCFFO building maintenance of \$20,000.

Larry made a motion to approve. Greg seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

**Citizen Comments (3 minutes)**

None

**Scott Fisher**

Dave asked Scott do you have anything?

Scott said I really don't other than I voiced a concern yesterday about a project that I think is struggling to move forward but was attempting to move forward on County Road 800 North leading to the stone quarry. My concern was \$2 million was a lot to spend on ½ mile of road and if for some reason they chose not to move their entrance and scale house that \$2 million section of road would never be used.

Greg said not only that Scott, they're commitment was going to be two years after Randolph County did their part.

Scott said that is the reason I spoke up.

Greg said they're going to wear the other road out during the two years before they even think about getting it moved.

Scott said not to mention even if we spend \$2 million your exiting out onto road 1 in a very bad spot. It's an accident waiting to happen. I think the county would be better off beefing up the current road 1000 W to 700 N and out to road 1 would be my opinion. I think we should take a look at. It's already in pretty good shape, maybe put some more asphalt and more shoulder on that section. I know a Commissioner or two was pretty set on working on 800 but I'm very concerned that if we put money into 800 and they don't move their driveway or scale house it's wasting money.

Dave said both of you have seen it firsthand.

Greg said if you pop over, your heading north bound in a semi-truck which I do often hauling grain. I'm not sure you could get a loaded truck stopped in time.

Scott said I will tell you the stone quarry is doing quite a bit of business already. I had a truck up there this morning before they opened up the scale house and there was 15 trucks waiting to weigh in. That means those 15 trucks have got to come out somewhere at some point and that's going to continue pretty steady all summer long. So, if they wait 2 years to move their driveway.

Greg said they're going to have 700 and 1000 shot.

Scott said yes, they're going to have them wore out. I'm just thing maybe we ought to look at spending some money on 700 and 1000 versus spending two or four million on 800. I think we should look at another option possibly.

Greg said I cannot help but think from a drivers stand point of safety that they wouldn't prefer to go 1000 to 700.

Scott said I'm sure that is where the trucks are running right now. And what I'm saying is if you spend \$2 million on 800 and they don't move the drive way or scale house them drivers are going to continue to go down to 700 even if you spend \$2 million because it isn't a very safe exit.

Dave said so we have a joint meeting on that. We're having one coming up.

Greg said yes, it needs to be discussed.



Dave asked Laura can you add that to our agenda and I'll get with Gary on it.

Greg said I can't imagine, the stone quarry was going to donate stone I think if I remember right for the berm. I cannot imagine that they wouldn't help on 1000 and 700 and then they wouldn't even have to worry about moving their scales.

Scott said a month ago I had heard the comment that if the county give them a new road or a good road all the way to the gate they were willing to donate about \$350,000 and if they only done it to that s curve they was only looking at \$100,000 to \$150,000 or the stone, something like that. I told Gary at that point if they're willing to donate \$300,000 I think it ought to be spent on county road 1000 and 700. Those roads are in decent shape, maybe put a better shoulder on them and another 3 or 4 inches of asphalt to them and you'd probably spend half as much money.

Dave said let's sit and discuss it with Commissioner's.

Greg said one of Gary's points he brought up was the extra on 800 there is only one resident and on 1000 to 700 I don't know how many your dealing with but I can't imagine it's very many.

Scott said there's only a couple. What Gary is afraid of is they'll go on south on 1000 and there's a lot of houses if you go on south. There's a lot more county road to be tore up or maintained. I'm really nervous about spending two or four million dollars and having trucks exit onto road 1 off of 800.

Dave said I'd think the state would be concerned about that.

Scott said now 700 still is not perfect but it's a lot better than 800. 700 your still in a hole but you can see a lot further.

Dave asked anything else Scott.

Scott said no, that's pretty much what's on my mind.

Dave said Todd?

Todd said this coming meeting with the Commissioner's is what May?

Scott said May 19<sup>th</sup>.

Todd said the insurance agent will be coming to make recommendations for the new year which begins July 1<sup>st</sup>. Our claims rate has been good. Everything's coming in good. They're going to stay with Unified Group Services even though there has been some discussion about changing the third party administrator. They're going to recommend changing the place you go to shop for benefits but the insurance itself is keeping with the same companies with the possible exception of dental and the supplemental stuff such as life and add-ons. They are going to recommend a lower deductible and I don't have those numbers but all that is going to be on May 19<sup>th</sup> if you want hear the insurance proposal. On the area planning commission we've talked a lot about it but there were a lot of meetings over the last three months with some of the same citizens who have been to our meeting a few times ago related to the solar farms in particular. There was a lot of good discussion about property values and keeping the setbacks within a reasonable numbers so that businesses could continue to be developed. There were some good maps that were drawn showing what the effect of setbacks from a residence at 250 or 400 or 500 feet on projects that had already happened and in those cases 400 feet didn't touch any of them, 500

feet a little bit and so the consensus was to change the ordinance from 40 feet to 500 feet from the dwelling on a property. So, if you have a 5 acre property and you've got a house on the corner the 500 feet would extend around your house and the corner that would be the setback. You still have all the property line set backs and they vary based off how many sides you have connected to a solar farm. As Greg said, that can be negotiated with the land owner if he says I don't need a 500 foot set back. That becomes a little bit of a benefit to that home owner because now they can get a little bit of compensation for the potential property value drops from having a solar farm right outside their lines. Anyway, the hold up at the Commissioner's meeting yesterday was that in the language in the changes there was something in there about notifying the BZA about a project. It wasn't even discussed at the last area planning commission meeting so I'm not sure what but that was unacceptable to the Commissioners so that proposal is going back to the area planning commission which doesn't meet in May so it will be June before that is addressed again and then it will go back to the Commissioner's and probably be signed at that point. We don't have any say in any of this, this is the Commissioner's I just wanted to kind of tell you in case we had citizens comment as we move forward on signing off on these Riverstart projects kind of what's changed. Do you have any questions of me on that?

Greg said as I understand it the commissioners were concerned that the language in the one that they have now would take the authority away from them to yea or nay a project. That would turn it over to the BZA.

Todd said right and that's the part that is going to get removed. It really wasn't discussed very much my by the area planning commission. I'm not sure exactly how that, I don't know if it was an unattended change or what.

Dave said anybody have anything else.

Bev said three of us, Dave, myself and Missy went to Monroe Central and they had a nice little presentation about the RAZ and how well it's doing and it's wonderful that there is an option for those students who want something other than college bound.

Dave said it's actually going full steam they've added three other schools.

Bev said yes, it's doing well. I'll give this to Laura to put on her stack.

Todd said they've added three other schools to the program.

Dave said they've added Randolph Southern, Northeastern and Liberty Perry.

Todd asked are those schools participating the way the original three are in that they are providing some sort of occupational training at those schools as well?

Bev said I'm not sure.

Dave said I don't think that has quite worked out but they've joined as part of RAZ. What they're going to offer at those different schools I don't know yet. I do know that the Superintendent of Public Education was really impressed with it. It's the first of its kind in Indiana. Greg do you have anything?

Greg said no.



Dave said the only thing I've got is budgets will be coming up here sooner than later. We are going to have to be concerned about what direction we are going to head. What I saw on our reduction for Randolph County over the next three years is around \$4 million. Maybe Jason can inform us.

Greg said isn't that out of a ten year. Wasn't that a graduating thing. Doesn't SB1 go out over a ten year period on this reduction.

Scott said I would like to say this and I don't know but I questioned JD Prescott and Scott Alexander out here at the 4-H fairground point blank about our cuts and they insisted we will still be getting what we got before but we wouldn't be getting any increases.

Todd said that's the way they described it.

Scott that is what those two gentlemen told me in front of about 300 people.

Dave said JD told me that also but I saw some numbers that have me concerned.

Todd said we don't start the salary study committee meeting until after the May 19<sup>th</sup> joint session. About how much time do we have to get.

Laura said in the past that's what's happened and we have to redo our budget numbers. So, we should have already started. Danita asked me already has the salary study committee gotten anything yet. She is just now sending the forms out so probably in about a month we'll start putting numbers in.

Todd said so after May 19 up to the end of May is that enough time so you don't have to redo things?

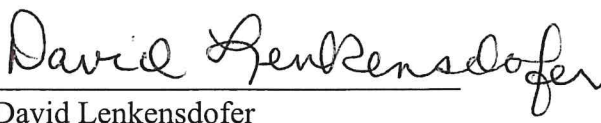
Laura said I thinks so. I think if she can get the numbers by the end of May. I think she starts inputting stuff in June.

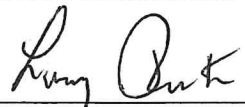
Dave said that's all I have. Anybody else?

#### Adjournment

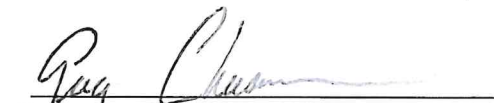
Greg made a motion to adjourn. Bev seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Reviewed and accepted this 8 day of July, 2025


  
David Lenkensdofer

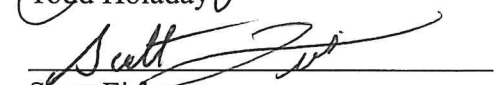
  
Larry Preston

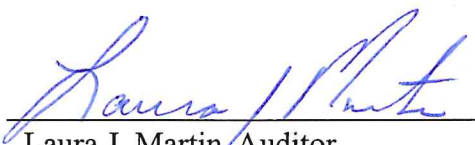
  
Beverly Fields

  
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Greg Cheesman

  
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Mike Stine

  
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Todd Holaday

  
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Scott Fisher

ATTESTED:   
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Laura J. Martin, Auditor