

## Randolph County Commissioners

October 16, 2023

The Randolph County Commissioners met at their regular meeting at 9:00AM in the Commissioners and Council Room in the Courthouse with the following members present: Board President Michael Wickersham, Gary Friend and Gary Girton. Also present was Randolph County Deputy Auditor Danita Saintignon, Sheriff Art Moystner and County Attorney Meeks Cockerill.

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Michael Wickersham, President presided over the meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance

### Council's update

Mike said first item on the agenda is Dave Lenkensdofer, a council update. Welcome Dave.

Dave Lenkensdofer said thanks for having us here. Bring you up to date from our last meeting, first thing I have on our list here was that we finally requested the tourism, we granted that, the \$12,500, so that should be moving forward. The Health Department, 2024 salary request was granted. That was with the new figures that was presented based off of an average statewide. They do understand if this funding goes away, it reverts back to the old salaries. They all understand that.

Mike said they have to.

Dave Lenkensdofer said they have to. I mean, salaries are pretty good. William Greer, Parker City request, we granted that, the \$51,500. It seemed like a nice project to help Parker City out a little. And our last one, we moved, we're going to move \$250,000 from General Fund to Rainy Day by the first of the year. We would like to know if the commissioners would like to participate in a match for that out of the Windfarm monies or Solar farm. In December we're going to have a resolution made for whatever money is total, and so we can put it back into Rainy Day. It's probably been 20 years since we've done anything with Rainy Day. And with protection of the county, going forward, I think it behooves us to try to put some money in there every year for as long as we can afford to do that, until we get to about 3 ½ million dollars. That's all.

Mike said anybody have any questions of Dave?

Gary Friend said no, I agree with him that I think February might be a better time to do it. That's when Windfarm draws come in. I'm in favor of it. \$250,000 to match the council. You have to do it one year at a time like you said, see where we're going. I think we need to shore up the county as much as what we can for what we don't even know may happen, or may not. May not would be better, but, I do have a question I want to ask the council. The dog shelter, be looking for additional appropriations, did you get an agreement on the council on that?

Dave Lenkensdofer said I did not on that.

Gary Friend said and then, the comp time we were talking about putting a new line in the appropriation, to put funds in. Did Council have any more discussion on that?

Dave Lenkensdofer said no, it wasn't on our agenda anywhere, so, either one.

Gary Friend said that's why I brought it up to you guys about both of those issues.

Dave Lenkensdofer said okay. There wasn't any discuss, I don't believe there was any more discussion on that.

Mike said so, has the council voted to, I know they voted to move General Fund to Rainy Day, have you voted to move Windfarm to Rainy Day, because if we do that, you have to do it too. I guess if it's your desire to do that, I would think you would be the starting point to that.

Dave Lenkensdofer said yeah, the only thing we've done Mike is to move, agreed to move the 250 from General Fund to Rainy Day. We have not discussed the 250 for Windfarm until we heard from the commissioners to see what they would like to do.

Mike said I don't, personally, I don't have a problem if, my only hesitancy at this point in time, is bridges and roads, and we've got some substantial expenses coming ahead of us with bridges, especially, if we get awarded some Federal grant funds. I know we have a pretty large alternative energy fund there. And I guess, for me, I would, if council wants it done, I guess, I would ask the council to start that process, and put the burden on us either to approve your decision if it's done, or reject your decision.

Dave Lenkensdofer said we can do that at our next. I'll put that on our agenda for the next meeting then we can discuss it there.

Mike said okay.

Dave Lenkensdofer said anything else?

Mike said that's all I have. Appreciate you coming in Dave.

### **Jake Donham-Cleanup of Towers**

Mike said Jake Donham, facilities manager to talk about the three emergency towers we have and the buildings and grounds around them. They're a mess.

Jake Donham said yeah. I wasn't sure what I was getting into. Thanks guys. Chris sent me an email, a kind of a Mayday, these sites were in need of weed control, some discussion about the structures needing paint. So, I just wasn't sure what you guys were looking at, so I just went and done a site visit on each one throughout all the deficiencies that I saw that were obvious, I just didn't know what direction you guys wanted to go with this.

Mike said you had a pretty good list of recommendations there. I didn't really disagree with personally.

Jake Donham said to me, I don't, I wasn't involved with this project at all. I mean, there's a lot of, it just wasn't finished. I mean, it wasn't punched out, no one, it was never addressed these issues. I think we need to get them cleaned up and taken care of, but I wasn't sure what you guys want to do everything that we've seen?

Mike said I think it needs to be done, everything that you saw, everything that you took pictures of, and then the recommendation of weed control, and the removal of the timber, replanting of seeding of grass there. And the buildings themselves need to be sealed.

Jake Donham said yeah. And on that, I wasn't sure, I don't have a clear understanding, is Randolph County responsible for everything in that because when Chris emailed me back, there were certain portions that he had service contracts with equipment, and I don't know who's, I don't know who's in charge of what. So, I'm just trying to get some ideas on what direction to go with it.

Mike said I would hope that when it comes to the building and the connections and the openings in them, I guess I would hope you would work Chris on that. He probably could advise you as to where our authority and responsibility stops, and where he has a maintenance contract, and that sort of thing.

Jake Donham said yeah. I would rather see that in his wheelhouse as far as, because I don't know what's power. I don't know what's IT. I don't know what any of that stuff is, and I don't really want to know. So, if that's his gig, maybe he can, I don't know, because that, there's a lot of stuff in and out of that building, and then I didn't realize inside the building, I mean, that's pretty much server.

Mike said and the one interior, we've talked to I think, it wasn't J & K, but it was Pyramid that kind of covered us on the interior with the insect issue. I think he dealt with that.

Jake Donham said so he may have some connections on as far as getting things tied up or cleaned up on that.

Mike said I think he would be a good place to start.

Jake Donham said okay.

Mike said and then again, if you guys work together on it, I think that would be the best way to solve that.

Jake Donham said okay. No, that's fine. I kind of put some feelers out with some different landscape companies I guess, as far as the weed control, the mats and the dirt. I mean, trying to find somebody who can do it all. And then, the structures themselves, may be a couple different



vendors as far as getting them some new metal, some caulking, try to grind some welds down that are rusted, and they just slap some paint on it and get out of there project on the buildings.

Mike said I recall those being they were off the shelf buildings, and they weren't, they may not have been in very good shape when they arrived.

Jake Donham said they were on the bargain.

Mike said we took issue with Pyramid on those.

Jake Donham said yeah. They were on the bargain shelf.

Mike said yeah, I think they were.

Jake Donham said so on those, I don't know if we have enough time and nice weather this year to get them actually painted, but we'll try to get them tightened up anyways. And then in the spring, try to it on schedule, to get somebody to shoot all three of them.

Mike said there was some discussion in your emails with Chris about different sized stone maybe put out there, in one or two of them?

Jake Donham said yeah, I don't, I mean, that's going to be personal preference I guess. It's got number twos in there now and they're a little more difficult to walk on, but I don't know how frequent.

Mike said there's not going to be a lot of walking through there I wouldn't think, so.

Jake Donham said yeah.

Gary Girton said we suggested that they put 73s, when they build it, put, I suggested they put 73s in the gate over to the doorway. And people were shaking their heads, but when everybody packed up and left nobody did it. And now no one wants to do it.

Jake Donham said what, so what do we, I mean, that's what I didn't understand. If you want to cover the entire area or, so I see what you're saying Gary, is I'll have somebody give us some pricing on just doing like extending the drive to the structure, and then walking paths, or a nice path to all the devices. That way we do, that way, eliminates trip hazard.

Gary Girton said just a walking path is all we need. The rest of it, since they left it the way they, which that wasn't the way we thought they did it. So, that's all hind sight not but we need to correct it.

Jake Donham said sure, yep.

Gary Girton said and the weed control, if we could knock that down in the spring, rather than let it go like it did this year.



Jake Donham said yeah. That's what I'd recommend, have somebody come in yet this year, go ahead and just knock things down, get it opened up, cleared up, because it's dying off now, but everything's gone to seed. And then first thing in the spring, start hammering some Pramitol on there, complete vegetation killer, that way we just kill everything and then we'll have to really maintain it next year. Then after that, it should be pretty manageable once or twice a year, just stay on top of it. My idea, I would, the Ridgeville Tower is by far the worst. And I talked to Royce Myers. He's got a, I was just kind of brainstorming because I didn't know what, what kind of approach to go with and he's got several different mowing options as far as mini excavator with a flail mower, which might be ideal because that one, the Ridgeville tower especially, as got some pretty large growth around it that weed eaters aren't going to handle.

Mike said outside of the fence?

Jake Donham said yeah. I think, I was going ask you guys, I was thinking maybe a four-foot radius around the outside of the fence just to keep it cleaned up. It would look a little more presentable than what it is.

Mike said I couldn't disagree with that. I guess, do we know at Ridgeville, what we're responsible for up there?

Jake Donham said I was just guessing, obviously the lay down mats probably need to be gone, and then I'm guessing just our drive off of our drive, because they have a drive that goes all the way around, I'm thinking to a sewage treatment facility just guessing.

Gary Girton said yes.

Jake Donham said so they have a drive there already, like in the first picture where my truck is parked, and that's their main drive. And then our drive is the next picture shooting into the tower. So, I would just think from their drive in, just get that all cleaned up, would be my guess.

Mike said and Chris ought to be able to share with you the plat out there to show what we are responsible for, as well as site 3 as well if you have a question about that.

Jake Donham said yeah. Well, I pulled it up on the GIS and kind of got an idea of what it's, the layout is. The one at Modoc, I'm just guessing it's just a square, because when that one's got some, the hog farm has actually maintained everything around it except for right in front. There're some piles of dirt and debris that they obviously didn't want to mow, make hay off of, but I think if we cleaned it up, they would probably mow right up to it.

Mike said well that needs to be cleaned up.

Gary Girton said we just actually purchased that property, so there's just a section you can get off that actual ownership as far as I'm concerned, the county of course, we own all of that middle one. The north one, the school corporation just let us have what we needed, so I don't know if there was ever an actual legal purchase. I think it was just what we needed to put up a tower.

Jake Donham said yeah. Yep.

Mike said okay. Do you need any other direction from us at this time?

Jake Donham said just do it, how you want to fund it, quote it out, bid it, it's whatever you guys want to do. I mean, it's, something like this is going to be pretty competitive. I mean, I can get a couple different prices.

Mike said I'd be okay with just getting a couple different prices and then you make a decision which one to do it.

Jake Donham said okay.

Gary Friend said me too. And put them on an annual rotation where it remains taken care of.

Jake Donham said sure.

Mike said are you okay with that Gary?

Gary Girton said yes.

Mike said okay. And then if you go beyond what Chris has, either let us know or Chris can let us know, and we'll direct you that way.

Jake Donham said okay. As far as funding it?

Mike said no, as far as just the work inside and that sort of thing.

Jake Donham said yeah. I'll just get with him and kind of brainstorm and see what he has as far as taking care of, and then if we need to add on to it, go from there.

Mike said we're going to have to recommend funding at some point in time.

Gary Friend said yeah. Do we have keys to the inside, Chris or anybody?

Gary Girton said Chris does.

Gary Friend said if those holes are big enough to get the rodents in there, they can go nuts inside there.

Jake Donham said yeah. I don't want any rodents or insects in there. Some of the penetrations are definitely. I'd like to see them tight enough to where we don't see flies in them even, because they're going to make a mess. They already have.

Gary Girton said yeah, we can't have flies in there.

Jake Donham said so each facility, each facility does have gates with, the Ridgeville and Modoc are actually padlocked, and once you open that padlock up, it opens up and there's keys for everything inside that fenced area.

Gary Friend said well if anything happens to the buildings as we go sealing the buildings and nobody enters them, we could trap a lot of stuff in there that needs taken out.

Jake Donham said right. That's one of the other questions. I don't know if there's a monthly visit per site by anybody, because obviously, there's maintenance equipment in there, the smoke detector, I just happened to notice it, and isn't monitored. I mean, if it goes off, is it calling the fire station? Do we need to look at having some sort of fire suppression put in the facilities?

Mike said it doesn't sound like Chris' maintenance people monitor fire.

Jake Donham said right. And that might have just been an added feature they through in there as a package deal too, I don't know. Yeah, this whole, these buildings are kind of new to my wheelhouse. I've never experienced anything like this to, so, I'm going to learn it.

Mike said obviously, they're new to the county as well, because we've let the ball slip there. And I'm just glad that we caught it when we can and we can correct it, then we'll make sure it doesn't happen in the future.

Jake Donham said yep.

Mike said so, we can pursue maybe a fire monitoring system and there's tower buildings out there all over the country, and I'm sure there's a service that does that. So, we'll ask Chris to do that.

Jake Donham said yep. And I'll ask, I'll address that with Chris too. If that's on someone else's end.

Mike said and you're probably right. We should, with Chris, discuss a monthly monitoring system of our own to go out there and just take a look at it.

Jake Donham said I think to set eyes on them at least once a month, just bird nests, whatever, vandalism, and so forth.

Mike said okay. Very good. Good report. Appreciate it.

Jake Donham said yep. You're welcome. Doing this, I just drive by it every day, the old county highway building, do we need to make any provisions before going in the winter as far as winterizing or anything there? I'd rather do it now instead of seeing water running out across the road on the way to work.



Mike said I would say you probably ought to winterize it. We're not going to lease it out before winter.

Jake Donham said okay.

Mike said do you agree?

Gary Girton said I agree, definitely.

Jake Donham said okay.

Gary Friend said you ought to get it on a controlled program for next year too. The highway probably take care of that.

Jake Donham said you say the highway will take care of that?

Gary Friend said they could.

Mike said we can have them do it.

Gary Girton said I thought they were going to take that over and use it.

Mike said well they're going to expand their use of it. They're already using it.

Gary Girton said I know, but since they're going to do that, it would be simpler for them to just maintain the weed control. They're there so I think they should continue doing that.

Mike said we just need to let Mike know that that's what we're planning.

Gary Friend said I'll tell him.

Jake Donham said yeah, I didn't know if we still have heat out there, and water is running. I don't know what all is going on out there. Maybe the county highway is utilizing it, I don't know.

Mike said I think he's just using it for cold storage.

Gary Friend said yeah, the water was off the last time. It needs to be double checked.

Jake Donham said yeah. Definitely the traps probably need some antifreeze in them so we don't freeze traps and that kind of stuff.

Gary Friend said well that last winter, they were just using buckets to flush the toilets. They broke the water lines, and those have been capped.

Jake Donham said okay. So, that one's on the highway, I don't worry about that one?

Mike said yeah, don't worry about that one.

Jake Donham said okay. I'm just trying to pick up some pieces. I just happened to think of that when I was through looking at this one, I thought I'm going to ask. That way, we don't let that one slip.

Mike said have you and Yumi been in contact with each other? Is that her name?

Jake Donham said Yumi. Yeah, she sent me some drawing and called me asking the different whatever she had drawn out. So, I actually pulled it up while I was talking with her, and got her questions answered.

Mike said okay. So, that's moving, they're moving forward on it?

Jake Donham said they're doing something. I don't know what they got going on. I just answered her questions. That's all I'm doing on that one.

Gary Girton said are the boilers all ready to go?

Jake Donham said oh, yeah, yeah. Actually, they're up and running. The only thing we have left to complete on it is I need to get with our IT here as far as getting lines ran so I can have remote access to them, and remote monitoring. But other than that, they're up and running and doing what they're supposed to do so. That comes out really, really good timewise. They start, we fired them I think, two weeks ago, done test fires, ran their set points up to make sure they were going to come up. And then once the weather started dropping temps, they took right off flawlessly, so far, and running right along. There're a couple small issues on it as far as the flue pipes have got some condensation leaks, but I've already reported that to Phil, and he's going to get them back in here and get that sealed up. But, other than that, that's a finished product.

Mike said good. Okay. Anything else for Jake?

Gary Friend said no. Thank you.

Mike said thanks Jake.

### **Art Moystner, Randolph County Sheriff – Security Automation System quotes**

Mike said three different matters. So, quotes for outside cameras and quote for the elevator.

Art Moystner said the quote for the elevator was, that work has already been performed. And I was planning on taking it out of building maintenance initially. I wasn't sure if you guys wanted to switch that to ARPA or not?

Gary Friend said it should probably be part of your building maintenance for the year. I mean, if you run out, you've got to come back to us.

Art Moystner said sure.

Gary Friend said we've done a lot out of ARPA I believe there, but that's part of your building line.

Art Moystner said and that's fine. I can do that. I just wanted to make sure that's the direction you wanted to go.

Mike said I would agree with that.

Art Moystner said okay. The other quotes are replacement on all the outside cameras around the jail facility. All of those are the older system. So, I know in the past, a couple of those cameras had been replaced, a couple of them, well, all of them are needing replaced now. We actually lost one last week in an area, and we'd like to move forward in putting these up. This will actually give us a 270-degree coverage on each corner and will eliminate any of the blind spots we currently have.

Mike said is the current system up there a security automation system or is it?

Art Moystner said it is. It is. This is the same company that we've been working with that replaced the door controls and it all interfaces seamlessly.

Mike said well, it's a 30-year-old jail.

Gary Girton said yeah, I think we need to move forward with it. We've been trying to move and get some of those things done over the last few years. In trying to get ahead, it seems like we take a step forward and two back, but we're gaining on it. We've made a lot of repairs and a lot of new items out there too. We've just got to keep at it.

Mike said is that a motion?

Gary Girton said yes.

Mike said how do you want to pay for that?

Gary Girton said you can if you want to.

Mike said use Rainy Day?

Gary Girton said I don't care what.

Mike said do you want to use ARPA for that? We've spent a lot of money out of ARPA on the jail.

Gary Girton said yeah.



Mike said I'm under the opinion we might as well continue.

Gary Friend said I am too. The account has plenty funding in it right now.

Gary Girton said I'm not opposed.

Mike said okay. Is that part of your motion?

Gary Girton said yes.

Mike said okay. I've got a motion to approve the \$23,940 for new outside cameras at the jail from Security Automation Systems and pay it out of ARPA. Do I have a second?

Gary Friend seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Art Moystner said I will give you an update. The last meeting, I brought in a list of things that I talked about at the jail. I wanted to tell Jake thank you. Him and I have a meeting this Wednesday with someone he's bringing in that's more knowledgeable with the air handling system. So, they're going to come in Wednesday. We're going to have a meeting, look at that and see what we need to do to move forward, so I can bring that report to you at the next meeting maybe.

Mike said okay.

Gary Friend said can you tell me the boilers are still operating?

Art Moystner said they are. I know within the last year, year and a half, I think I'd had the internal workings of one of them rebuilt. So, right now, they are, but I think that's one of the things that we can look at as we move forward. Jake and I talked about that last week.

Mike said do you want to go ahead and do the resolution for surplus property now? Isn't that your vehicle and rifles?

Art Moystner said yes.

#### RESOLUTION 2023-25

A RESOLUTION TO DECLARE CERTAIN PERSONAL PROPERTY OF  
RANDOLPH COUNTY, INDIANA,  
AS UNNEEDED, AND  
TO BE CONSIDERED SURPLUS PROPERTY FOR DISPOSAL

WHEREAS, the Randolph County Board of Commissioners ("Board")  
is empowered to declare unneeded property to be surplus property; and

WHEREAS, the Board may authorize the disposal of surplus property pursuant to IC 5-22-22 *et seq.*;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board that:

1. Pursuant to IC 5-22-22-8, the items listed on Exhibit "A", attached hereto, shall be considered to be surplus and worthless property ("Property") for purposes of disposal.

2. The value of the property is less than the estimated costs of the sale and transportation of the property.

3. The Property may be sold at public or private sale, and the Board shall allow the Department for which the item is used and noted on the attached Exhibit "A" to sell or otherwise dispose of the Property.

4. Proceeds from the sale of the items set forth in Exhibit "A", shall be placed in the fund from which the item was purchased. If no fund can be identified for a particular item, the proceeds shall be placed in the General Fund.

5. If the Property fails to sell at public or private sale it may be demolished or scrapped, or, if hazardous, be disposed of for recycling.

6. The Property may be removed from the Randolph County Indiana fixed asset inventory.

Sheriff's Office

Firearms:

Bushmaster	SR# BFI618319
Bushmaster	SR# L533938
Colt	SR# GC008853
DPMS	SR# FH233709
Bushmaster	SR# L533897
Bushmaster	SR# BK1409728
Bushmaster	SR# BFI617872
Colt	SR# GC008709
Adams Arms	SR# AA0019042

Vehicle:

1990 Chevrolet JC3 VIN# 1G1JC14G5LJ228088

EXIBIT A

Gary Girton said I'll move we approve Resolution 2023-25, surplus property.

Mike said I have a motion to approve 2023-25, a resolution to declare certain personal property, or certain personal property of the Randolph County as unneeded and to be considered surplus. And that is a 1990 Chevrolet JT3 vehicle, and one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine rifles.

Art Moystner said yes.

Gary Friend said a 1990?

Art Moystner said yes.

Gary Friend said still in service?

Art Moystner said no.

Gary Friend said okay.

Mike said I have a motion to approve this resolution. Do I have a second?

Gary Friend seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Mike said so how do we sell rifles?

Art Moystner said I will take those to the local gun dealers that have the Federal firearms license, and they can purchase those from the county.

Mike said okay. How far out do you go on that? Just Randolph County?

Art Moystner said yes. Yes, I try to keep that local.

Mike said okay. Do you have anything else for us this morning?

Art Moystner said I do not.

Mike said Gary, do you have anything for Art?

Gary Girton said no.

Gary Friend said I do not.

Mike said okay.

Art Moystner said thank you.



**Eric Devin – Ordinance 2023-20 Health Dept. rate increases**

Mike said Eric Devin, Ordinance 2023-20, Health Department rate increases, the second reading. We passed this on the first reading at our last meeting. This is ordinance number 2023-22, and ordinance amending uniform fee schedule for Randolph County Health Department. Do you have anything for us this morning, Eric?

Eric Devin said I don't. I'm just here to answer any questions, if any.

Mike said okay. Well, I'll entertain a motion to approve ordinance 2023-20, an ordinance amending the uniform fee schedule for Randolph County Health Department in title only.

ORDINANCE 2023-22

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE UNIFORM  
FEE SCHEDULE FOR RANDOLPH COUNTY  
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, the Randolph County Health Department is under the oversight of the Randolph County, Indiana, Board of Commissioners ("Board"); and

WHEREAS, Indiana Code 36-1-3-1 to 9, inclusive, grants certain home rule powers of Randolph County; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Board to fix the permit fees for the Randolph County Health Department.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Randolph County Board of Commissioners, that a Uniform Fee Schedule be established effective January 1, 2024, for the Randolph County Health Department as follows:

<b>DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>SERVICE</b>	<b>FEE</b>
<b>Food</b>	Restaurant food permit between January 1 and December 31	\$85.00
	Food stand temporary permit	\$40.00
	Food Permit late fee	\$25.00
	Food Service Plan Review	\$25.00
<b>Septic</b>	Septic Permit	\$100.00
	Contractor Registration	\$100.00
<b>Vital Records</b>	Birth Certificate	\$15.00
	Death Certificate	\$13.00
	Home birth certificate (includes birth certificate)	\$20.00
	Paternity affidavit	\$10.00
	Paternity affidavit copy	\$0.00
	Name Amendment (includes birth certificate)	\$0.00
<b>Other Fees</b>	Public Swimming Pool	\$100.00

	Tattoo Parlor (annual)	\$125.00
	Tattoo Artist Permit	\$125.00
	Eyelash Extension	\$125.00
	Micro Blading	\$125.00
	Derma Plaining	\$125.00
	Miscellaneous	\$20.00
<b>DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>SERVICE</b>	<b>FEE</b>
<b>Public Health/Nursing Service</b>	Vaccines for Children and other vaccines provided at no cost to the County	0 for vaccine plus \$15.00 for administration (Administration fee for Medicaid patients fee will be charged to Medicaid)
	Adult vaccines/other vaccines provided at no cost to the County	0 for vaccine plus \$15.00 for administration (Administration fee for Medicaid patients fee will be charged to Medicaid)
	All vaccines provided at cost to the County	Cost of vaccine plus 10% rounded up to next dollar plus \$15.00 administration fee
	Tuberculosis test	\$15.00 per single test
	Flu vaccine	Cost of vaccine plus 10% rounded up to the next dollar plus \$15.00 administrative fee
	All other vaccines and/or tests	Cost of vaccine plus 10% rounded up to the nearest dollar plus \$15.00 administration fee
Administrative Fees	Copies of previous visit shot records	\$15.00

NOW FURTHER ORDERED by the Randolph County Board of Commissioners, that the Randolph County Board of Health shall institute a hardship and donations policy, allowing those individuals not able to pay the full fee for services, to receive the services at reduced or no cost, dependent upon an individual's economic circumstances.

Gary Girton made motion to approve. Gary Friend seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Mike said that motion passed unanimously. We can suspend the rules and have the third and final reading today if the commissioners so choose to do so.

Gary Girton said I'll move we suspend the rules and have the third and final reading by title only passed today since we've already had a period of time for people to make comments and so on in reference to it.

Mike said okay. I have a motion to suspend the rules and have the third and final reading today for passage of this ordinance. Do I have a second?

Gary Friend seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Mike said now we've come to our third and final reading of ordinance number 2023-20, an ordinance amending the uniform fee schedule for Randolph County Health Department. I'd entertain a motion to approve and pass that ordinance.

Gary Friend made motion to adopt Ordinance 2023-22. Gary Girton seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Mike said Ordinance 2023-22 is adopted.

Eric Devin said thank you very much

**Joe Copeland – SJCA Bridge Inspection Agreement**

Mike said Joe Copeland, SJCA Bridge Inspection Agreement.

Joe Copeland said I just need to get your approval for the bridge inspection contract with SJCA so we can proceed to get our contract with the State.

Mike said okay. Anything you want to share with it?

Joe Copeland said no. It's pretty standard stuff.

Mike said we've already approved SJCA as the bridge inspector. So, Gary, do you have any questions?

Gary Girton said no.

Gary Friend said I do not.

Mike said I'd entertain a motion to approve the signing of this LPA Consulting contract for county bridge inspections with SJCA.

Gary Friend made motion to approve. Gary Girton seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Mike said we're okay with any color of ink?

Joe Copeland said yeah, I've not hearing them complain about it lately.

Mike said anything else for us this morning you want to talk about?

Joe Copeland said do you have a last page for a signature area? You may not, it may not have printed out the full thing.

Mike said signing in two places.



Joe Copeland said yeah, that is for the sub-consultant.

Mike said that only requires one signature.

Joe Copeland said yes.

Mike said anything else?

Joe Copeland said we're going to try to do a repair on one more bridge before the weather goes bad on us. Bridge 72 on 100 East, north of 32. It's a deck repair and overlay. We're going to play it, we can get the deck repaired. The overlay will be the question, because it's temperature sensitive. So, if we have some warmer days, we'll be able to get it poured. If now, we can wait.

Mike said 100 East, north of 32. Is that just north of the church there?

Joe Copeland said about 6/10s of a mile north. I think there's a curve there, so it's right there.

Mike said okay.

Joe Copeland said I'm putting final numbers together on the ones that we finally got a bill from the contractor. He's so slow on billing, so, we're going to put some final numbers on some bridges and repairs, and get back with you on how much those cost.

Mike said we got an email from Jessica this morning about CUM bridge projections for 2024 through 2027.

Joe Copeland said yes. I did next year's 24's projection for how much I think it's going to cost with the bridges we've got. There're two new bridges in that. Pretty standard stuff. That's what I usually do. I put this year's figures on what we've used to date and I have a date there. And then I put what we used in last years.

Mike said and we have three bridges for Federal Aid applications?

Joe Copeland said yes. The one in Union City, we're going to rank number 1. That'll be coming at your next meeting.

Mike said is that 212?

Joe Copeland said yeah. That'll be number 1.

Mike said and who's the other two?

Joe Copeland said 114 and 280, is it?

Mike said yeah, and 284. Where are those located, 114?

Joe Copeland said 114, isn't that on 300 South. That's the steel truss.

Mike said okay. And then 284?

Joe Copeland said 284 is the one we had closed over on, what is that, 750 West.

Mike said that's the one-off Highway One?

Joe Copeland said yes.

Mike said that's got the hump in the road?

Joe Copeland said yes. So, we're going to, we'll be in here next month asking for a financial commitment letter, and with some numbers. Let's see if we can those on track.

Mike said okay. Have anything for Joe?

Gary Friend said no.

Joe Copeland said thank you.

Mike said thank you.

### **Chris Peacock – Farm leases**

Mike said Chris Peacock, farm leases.

Chris Peacock said I had sent an email to you last week after the bids came in on leasing the county land with a little update on that. I'd be glad to review that if you'd like in public forum, or we can just cut to the chase on the high bids, discuss that. We did try to reach all the perspective, anybody that would have interest in leasing the county land. We tried to make sure we reached out to personally. We also ran two adds in the newspaper in the classified ad section. And had posts on face book about it. And surprisingly, probably, the direct mailing and the face book post received the most interest. So, that was interesting.

Mike said well I would say we were successful.

Chris Peacock said yes, I think it was successful. We probably reached out to 45, 50 people altogether that we know of, and Darke county, Mercer County, Jay County as well as Randolph County, was the people that we spoke with. In all, we received a total of 16 bids and in the email to you, we had received 15 at time. We received a late bid. It was not high enough to sway the final decision here, I don't think.

Mike said and our lease term begins when?

Chris Peacock said it would start with harvest of the crop, harvest of 2023 crop. The actual contract would start January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, and end December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

Mike said when would we need to notify the, who we choose to be the successful bidders? When would we need to notify them?

Chris Peacock said the sooner the better so they can apply fertilizer this fall and begin crop preparation.

Mike said I understand that. Is that something we need to do today or do we want to do it next?

Chris Peacock said if we could, if we could, please.

Mike said okay. That's what I'm asking. You want to do it today.

Chris Peacock said so, what I'm asking is what I'd like to request, is approval to proceed with the high bidders on this. Garrett Alka was the high bidder on the ground around the fairgrounds and the County Infirmary, what I call the south lease, at \$375 per acre. And then on the airport land, is the same rate, same bid that one. Clark Chamberlain, Gary and Jean Stewart were the high bids on that. So, I'd like approval to proceed with leasing the farms out to those two high bidders. And then as well as giving Ben Brumfield the opportunity to lease the 7.13 acres of land that's cut out of his family's farm there.

Mike said for that amount?

Chris Peacock said yes, for the same amount.

Mike said that's kind of what we offered Ben when we entered this.

Chris Peacock said yes.

Gary Girton said right. I'll move we accept Chris' recommendation on the proposals for the lease for the, you're just going one year, right?

Chris Peacock said yes.

Gary Girton said for the 2024 farming?

Chris Peacock said yes.

Mike said I have a motion to accept the recommendation.

Gary Friend said second.

Mike said I have a second. Any further discussion?

Gary Friend said I just wondered, what were we getting before you got involved?

Chris Peacock said excuse me?

Gary Friend said what were we getting as lease payments? I don't remember.

Chris Peacock said the prior lease payment on the south ground was 276.62 an acre. And our 375 that was bid here, there is a potential for flex payment in addition to the base cash rent. On the land at the airport, it was 237 per acre. So, a substantial increase on both, plus potential for a flex payment. And the flex payment will be based on the yield and price for 2024.

Mike said okay. Anything else?

Chris Peacock said one question.

All aye votes. Motion carried.

Mike said now your question.

Chris Peacock said okay. One other request I have is for a concern that came up as how wet some of the ground is on the south properties, and I've spoken to our county surveyor about a ditch fund that's in place for making repairs and improvements on the county land, a ditch maintenance fund. So, I would like approval to start working on making improvements to the county land on the drainage.

Mike said we have a farm maintenance fund.

Ed Thornburg said yeah, farm maintenance.

Mike said it's for farm maintenance and I'm not, I don't recall what that fund amount is right now. Haven't we spent money out there already on that farm?

Ed Thornburg said we ditched the airport farm.

Mike said airport, you're talking the south farm.

Chris Peacock said yes.

Ed Thornburg said the south farm was ready to start on.

Gary Girton said right. We talked about that. We did spend money on that one. The main ditch went through on the north.

Ed Thornburg said yes.



Gary Girton said but we haven't spent any on the rest of it. So, I think that's a good move and we need to get, come up with a plan, Ed, and everybody, and then we'll discuss what we can afford and what we want to this year and next year or in the spring, I guess.

Chris Peacock, with your approval, we'll explore that and come back with a recommendation to you and request approval to proceed with projects.

Mike said okay. That would be the best way to do that, and then if we don't have the funds to do it, then we either don't do it or we find funds to do it.

Chris Peacock said great.

Mike said does that work for you, Gary?

Gary Girton said yes.

Mike said okay. Very good.

Chris Peacock said then as far as signing the leases for 2024, will I meet with you afterwards, at a later date?

Mike said have you got them now?

Chris Peacock said I have one now. I'll need to peak with Ben Brumfield before we have a determination from him. So, we can, if we wait a couple days, we can probably do potentially all three leases at the same time.

Mike said just give me the authority to do that or one of us the authority to do that?

Meeks said you can vote on it. You already pretty much voted on it, so if you want to vote again, that's fine.

Gary Girton said I'll move we give Mike the authority to sign the leases on behalf of the commissioners.

Gary Friend seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Mike said so, do you want to get with me and we will sign them.

Chris Peacock said yes sir. Will do.

**Bob McCoy, Winchester Mayor – Animal Control Contract (tabled from 9/18/23)**

Mike said Bob McCoy, Winchester Mayor, animal control contract.

Bob McCoy said I heard you discussing with Dave that the county council has yet to approve an additional appropriation, I don't know whether that held things up or you guys had any

corrections, additions, or whatever, to contract. I mean, we've got time. That's why I wanted to get it before you before the end of the year.

Mike said I understand. I wasn't real sure the sheriff's questions were answered to his satisfaction. And I don't know, what I don't know is how it's been being done for the last three years. I mean, if Losantville called and had a stray animal, how was that? I don't know where the 57 animals came from. I don't know if they came from other communities and Winchester picked them up and this is going to be a change, or if they've come from the county and they've come after hours, and Winchester has picked them up. And this would be a change?

Bob McCoy said for the most part, they come from unincorporated areas of the county, like we're talking Lynn, Farmland and areas like that. Union City, we have not been, definitely Union City, we have not been bringing animals into the shelter. There may have been a few come from Lynn at some point. And then, I'm not sure on the other. I would have to get a call log. Art may be able to answer that better.

Art Moystner said I would think with the majority of those, I know the officers themselves, are not the ones that have brought these in. I believe these are brought in by county residents also, who surrender those.

Bob McCoy said sometimes. Again, I don't know how that all has worked in the past.

Art Moystner said I can go back and look, but I don't recall us having 50 some animal calls last year for dogs that we went out on. That would be extremely high for us.

Mike said so, if it's a resident that picks up a stray dog and brings it to the shelter, then would our contract cover that?

Bob McCoy said yes.

Mike said this new contract?

Bob McCoy said yes.

Mike said okay. So, that's not an issue.

Bob McCoy said yes. I mean we're, we still have housed 57 dogs besides what the city has took in. I can't remember the numbers. I don't have them in front of me, but, throughout the county.

Mike said right. Okay.

Art Moystner said with regards to some of my questions, Deputy Chief Barndollar, at Winchester, sent me an email that explains some of that. I know in, I think it was the last Meeting the mayor had made a comment with regard to strays, of them not getting picked up. If it's a repeat problem, according to Barndollar, they would come out for that if we're having a repeat problem with a stray. So, they're going to treat us similar to the procedures that they also

have in town. So, if it's during the working hours of their animal control officer, then he will come out and assist us right away for emergencies after hours. He would come out for those. If it's a non-emergency situation, then we'll leave him an email and work through that when he's actually working so that Winchester is not paying overtime for that stuff.

Bob McCoy said or chasing a dog around the county.

Art Moystner said if it's not an emergency.

Mike said so communication would determine whether it's an emergency or not between the sheriff's department and the city.

Art Moystner said we would determine that when the officer goes to the scene. We will still send out an initial officer. And if we determine that there's a circumstance there, then animal control will get called out.

Bob McCoy said we had, what, two weeks ago, a couple great danes kill a horse?

Art Moystner said I think so.

Bob McCoy said yeah, and we never did find out, I don't think they ever found out who the dogs even belonged to.

Art Moystner said I'm not sure.

Bob McCoy said I don't know whether any charges were filed or anything like that. But I mean that's one of them that we end up going out on.

Mike said and not for the horse, for the dog?

Bob McCoy said for the dogs. But I don't think the dogs were ever even found. And nobody seemed to know who they belonged to.

Mike said well, to answer your question, I think if we, I mean we could wait until our November meeting, but we're still going to have to vote to approve it, and ask council to appropriate the money.

Bob McCoy said got you.

Mike said I don't see any reason not to, if we're in agreement, not to approve it today. I don't, we don't want to maintain our own shelter.

Gary Girton said I've been satisfied since Winchester took it over. I think they've made a lot of improvements. I know they've had some funding gifts that have helped improve the facilities, and they've done a great deal. And I think expenses are going up, we just need to help share



with that. So, we can all work together and try to do the best we can to control the animals. I know it's a real issue in a lot of areas.

Bob McCoy said exactly, and we're, I mean, soon as we get this done, we're going to move forward with, and I don't know if we'll get construction started this year, but we are moving forward, getting somebody in there and we've already got something laid out as far as the size we're looking for to expand the shelter and better service what we've got, because we're just out of room when it comes to taking that many animals.

Gary Girton said I'll move that we approve the contract with Winchester for the animal shelter as presented.

Gary Friend seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Meeks said that would be subject to the funding.

Mike said well we already have 45 appropriated, so we'd just be asking for another 20 to be moved into that line.

Bob McCoy said so, do you want to sign that today, or do you want to wait?

Meeks said we need to get the funding.

Bob McCoy said wait?

Mike said well if we sign it today, then we're guaranteeing the funding, so we'd have to find the funding someplace else if they don't appropriate it, so, I think we probably should wait.

Bob McCoy said okay. That's fine.

Mike said but we are in agreement with it.

Bob McCoy said okay.

Mike said okay. Anything else for us this morning, Bob?

Bob McCoy said I did get a notice from, it looks like SJCA regarding utility coordination for the north main bridge, which that's the starting of getting that bridge, getting the process started. So, that's very early in the process.

Mike said Federal grant?

Bob McCoy said Federal grant.

Mike said okay.

Bob McCoy said one other question that came up during a drug-free Randolph County meeting recently. I'm actually on that board, treasurer, it's the restricted opioid funds. It's their understanding, and mine as well, that the county will be receiving some of them funds that were supposed to go to the cities that, it's under \$6,000.00 I think.

Mike said the restricted portion?

Bob McCoy said the restricted portion. I don't know what that amounts going to be for you guys, but I think Winchester got, I'm thinking over \$20,000, the first installment. We have spent some of our unrestricted, but the restricted is restricted to certain items and things. Drug-free Randolph County would like to come up with a plan with the commissioners that the other cities, whatever, to better utilize that money for the purpose it's intended for. So, something to just put in your minds that Dave Reese may come up and say hey, you know, we're looking at trying to establish treatment, whatever.

Mike said it looks like we're going to get, according to the Attorney General, get \$73,229.00 of restricted, and \$31,384 of unrestricted. Now that's a letter I received but, I wouldn't put that in the bank until I talked to the Auditor.

Bob McCoy said got you. Okay. But just something to think about. Now, I'll kind of relay, tell Dave that you know, I talked to you guys about it, and again, I think the funds are put there for that purpose and to help people with addictions and things like that treatment, so, maybe we can work towards that goal and have drug-free Randolph County kind of oversee how that goes. Thank you.

Mike said okay. Very good. Thank you, Bob.

Gary Friend said I think the commissioners ought to make a formal request for the council to increase the appropriation of the animal control contract \$20,000.00. I briefed the council last month.

Mike said I have a motion to request council to appropriate another \$20,000.00 to cover the cost of the new animal control contract with Winchester. Do I have a second?

Gary Girton seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Mike said so we'll do that the November meeting. Can you do that for us Gary? Are you going to the November meeting?

Gary Girton said I believe so.

### **Jim Martin-Permission to Use Lawn for Monument Lighting Ceremony**

Mike said Jim Martin. Permission to use lawn for monument lighting ceremony.

Jim Martin said just to fill you in, I've got, last, two weeks ago our committee's meeting notes to give you an idea what we're planning, what's going on with the ceremony, because it's not just

about lighting the monument now. It's about actually honoring the monument, honoring those that it represents. So, we're trying to make this a pretty big event for Randolph County as a whole. Something else that I also have is a flyer, but then I might have got the cart before the horse, before now we're asking you for permission to use the lawn for the ceremony. Missy Williams is getting ahold of re-enactment actors I believe, a lot like what they did with the third graders that came to the court house, and nothing inside the court house, but I think the dough boy, the tank, different areas around the court house lawn, we're getting re-enactment people that the community can come and listen to ways of the past. But we are trying to get as much involvement with the VFWs, American Legions, have actually reached out to the air force, trying my best to coordinate possibly, a fly over with a bomber. Dillon Addington is one of the crew members, and he's very excited about that. But there's a lot of paperwork that's involved with that, but just really wanting to make it special for Randolph County. Coming to you with permission to use the lawn.

Mike said and that would be the east lawn?

Jim Martin said well that's the focus of the ceremony, the east lawn. But people will probably be walking all around the monument listening to the re-enactors.

Mike said the re-enactors will be stationed at all sides?

Jim Martin said correct.

Mike said are you going to need electricity?

Jim Martin said we think it'll be light enough out that we would not need electricity.

Gary Friend said do you have a formal date?

Jim Martin said yep. Yeah, we have John Stanley. He was in charge of the National Guard here for the longest time, and his recommendation was doing it on November 10<sup>th</sup> because a lot of veterans actually leave the community on Veterans Day, and so if we have it the night before, that'll get a bigger crowd. So, that's why we decided November 10<sup>th</sup>, the day before Veterans Day at 6:30.

Mike said so most of the activity will take place out here?

Jim Martin said correct.

Mike said and then are you hoping to have porta-pots and things of that nature?

Jim Martin said we will probably have porta-pots, yes.

Mike said sounds like a good celebration.

Gary Girton said looks like a lot of effort put forth for a good purpose.



Jim Martin said we definitely thank the commissioners for helping out with this.

Gary Girton made motion to grant the request for use of the courthouse lawn. Gary Friend seconded the motion.

Mike said I have a motion and a second to approve the request of, and this is Main Street?

Jim Martin said correct.

Mike said Winchester Main Street for the use of the court house lawn on November 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

All aye votes. Motion carried.

Jim Martin said thank you. And another thing I was wondering is you guys had mentioned that we would be receiving \$2,500.00, and I just didn't know how that worked out that we would receive that money.

Gary Friend said you have to file a claim at the Auditor's office.

Jim Martin said okay. And I think I did. Pretty sure, because I emailed it, and then.

Danita said yeah, you'll have a check later today.

Jim Martin said later today, alright.

Danita said or tomorrow morning.

Jim Martin said thank you.

### **Jim Nunez-WCCPC Thank You**

Mike said Jim Nunez, WCCPC.

Jim Nunez said morning. On behalf of WCCPC, I'm honoring you guys with our ribbon. One of the things that we take pride in doing here for the county, is putting on Marti Gras. And with you guys' permission, is getting the people together in Randolph County, and you know a lot of people come back because they remember what happens during Marti Gras and what happens here in the county. They bring a lot of memories, and they make memories. So that's why we do what we do as they used to do the JCs. And now we do it as WCCPC. And it also makes the community get together, churches, boy scouts, girl scouts. This year with a political party, people of a political party, they get together and they do memories. They talk to people. So, it's just one of those things that we do, things here in Randolph County is getting together. One of the things that we do very well. And we communicate. Then of course, we top it off with a parade. So, it's one of the biggest parades that we have. So, it's just one of the things that we like to do in communicating. So, I just represent our WCCPC as president, and we'd just like to thank you.

Mike said well you are welcome. I will say that I've had a son move back to town. He left in 2008, and his last Marti Gras, I bought his ride tickets, and this year he bought his kids rides ticket.

### **John Greene and Sam Petty, NLBC-Fiber Project Opportunities**

Mike said John Greene and Sam Petty. NLBC fiber project opportunities.

John Greene said morning gentlemen. First, I want to introduce you to Sam Petty. He's been with us going on 4 months now. He is our new chief operating officer. He will be taking over the day-to-day operations of New Lisbon telephone New Lisbon broadband. So, you will probably see and hear more from him in the future. But Sam comes to us by way of Texas. So, he has yet to go through an Indiana winter. He's looking forward to it. I'm not sure how much information you need, and I didn't really bring a lot of details. This is more I guess, Mike, as much as anything, just an informational meeting with the county commission. But there are a couple projects that have kind of been out there on the periphery for the past year or so with Economic Development. One was building fiber cable out to the Winchester Speedway, out west on 32. The other one was building fiber down to the county barn, also the 4-H fairgrounds as well. And, I guess the question came up at a recent EDC meeting about whether or not there would be any county funding available as a partial grant to help fund that. New Lisbon wants to build both of those projects. But, we also wanted to pursue the potential of getting some grant funding from the county. So, I guess it went full circle. It went to Gary, and now we're back talking to the commission, so I wanted to bring that up and see what process we need to go through to be able to potentially get some funding on that.

Mike said Gary is a member of our technology committee. And one time, we did earmark \$400,000.00 for broadband, and the technology committee kind of steered us away from building towers and using those funds to do that. As far as I'm concerned, the money is still earmarked for I guess, the best way, for technology, and we kind of, I've always kind of relied on the technology committee to advise us on which way to go there. So, I don't know if that answers your question, John, but there is money there that we did earmark. And obviously, if we ran it to the highway department, it would be of the county's benefit to do that because we would be the strongest benefactor of that.

John Greene said sure, sure. And as always, you know, when we do a project like this, we don't just do point to point. We're going to be able to provide service for anybody along the route as well, so, residential customers, as well as potential business customers. So, like I said, the 4-H fairgrounds is another one that's been interested in getting some fiber service down there for some time as well.

Gary Friend said I'm a little perplexed. I don't think the county highway really needs fiber optic. I mean, I don't know why we would spend money to go out there when the internet they have is completely adequate for their operations. Why would we pick out the highway department as a place to go? The 4-H department, I've never ever heard them out there say that they don't have adequate internet. I guess what I'm getting at is we have a lot of folks with very good internet and we have a lot of folks with very bad internet.



John Green said correct.

Gary Friend said so, if we spend money making people with good internet get better internet, what are we doing for people with bad internet getting good internet? It's kind of where I'm at on it. I don't know that we need, we don't need to spend money in my opinion, to go to the highway department. It does not need fiber optic.

John Green said no, no, I don't disagree. I know right now, we're providing the highway department with a wireless connection back to our tower here in Winchester, and as far as I know, everything's been working fine. I have heard that the 4-H fairgrounds want more capacity than what we can give them currently, when they do the fairs. So, I know from that standpoint, they wish they had a little bit more capacity than we can do wirelessly.

Gary Friend said I mean, I'm just, we have a lot of under served people that those funds might be better used for than to help good service people get better service.

John Greene said well there's also on that south route, there's also some residential customers that don't have service today, that we would be able to pick up as part of that plan. So, there's about half a dozen homes, I think, in that area, that don't have service today, or don't have.

Gary Friend said they don't have it because they choose not to?

John Greene said no, they don't have adequate service. Let's put it that way.

Gary Friend said but all over the county we have that problem.

John Greene said that is correct. That is correct. Now, I will say that with some of the Federal programs, with ARDOF, which we're doing over around the Windfarm, Charter Communications has won quite a bit of funding in ARDOF, some of those projects that are being built today, are going to take care of a lot of those areas in the county. I know Charter has made a lot of progress in the areas that they're committed to. We've already started placing fiber cable out in our area there around the Windfarm.

Gary Friend said Charter is I mean, I'm a Charter customer. I just spoke to them last week. I can't have it until maybe December of next year.

Mike said right. That's their deadline.

Gary Friend said yeah, that's their deadline. They made sure that I knew that that's on December of next year. It's not even about me and Charter. It's about, for me, you know, we may have you come and develop more projects to entice business and such, but to upgrade residential properties that we have under served, are hard choices. And, our highway doesn't need fiber optic that I know of. So, I don't know why you chose the highway, or why you choose.



Mike said I think at one time, there was discussion that they might need it.

Gary Friend said I see.

Mike said and I think that's where it came about. And I think, I think then, we determined that they didn't need it.

John Greene said I think that was more at the time when they were going to use that location as a hub for the entire county. I don't know if that's still the case or not, and I'm not sure what their band width requirements are.

Mike said I just think they, I think through it may have been your recommendation, the highway department working with the wireless out there, they got what they needed. And then the speedway just kind of, I think Randolph United has talked about the speedway having fiber for a long time. And that's a business out there I guess. But it all boils back to, for me, it's the technology committee, and what they're advising us to do.

Gary Girton said well they have, they've had a fair amount of discussion, particularly through modifications just being made at the fairgrounds. And what they're anticipating possible use out there at the fairgrounds will be with an additional building and so on. In trying to encourage more use of those facilities, there may be a need for additional fiber out there. There has been a fair amount of discussion of that. And they're supposed to start that construction the fall of 24.

Mike said but according to OKRA, in Indiana, at least the list I got, there's hundreds of addresses in this county that are under served.

John Greene said absolutely. Yep, I would agree.

Gary Girton said the committee is trying to work on coming up with some way with some other groups of trying to get a better feel of availability and the strength of availability of fiber. But just broadband, period in the county, because the figures and facts that we've seen come out from the government don't jive with what we're being told by residents of whether it's bad issues. And just our last meeting, we spent a fair amount, or some time they've spent a fair amount of time discussing what might be some possibilities how to obtain that data without going door-to-door, and they did rule that issue out.

John Greene said well the problem, and we've talked about this in previous meetings, the problem is always the accuracy of the mapping. And as long as the mapping is self-reported, it's going to be inaccurate. And I don't want to get into the technological details of why it's inaccurate, but it's pretty obvious if I've got a piece of cable setting in front of somebody's house, I can serve them. But if I have wireless equipment on the tower, I may or may not be able to serve them. So, that's part of the inaccuracy, in the mapping. There are a number of ways that county governments and individuals can go back to the FCC and say hey, this is inaccurate and try to get that updated. But it's a slow arduous process, and quite frankly, it wasn't around when some of these programs like ARDOF \came around you know, four, five, ten years ago. So, we're still playing catch up. But the other thing on the highway 32 to the Winchester

Speedway, is there's a nice size little subdivision development there to the north of the speedway, that you go by the speedway to get to it. As far as I know, none of those customers have any type of internet other than off a cell phone today. There's no way they can get a wireless signal back there because of the density of the trees, and there's nothing else in the area. So, that would be another area that's unserved, completely unserved that would be able to get service off of their route. So, at this point, I'm just, I'm looking for some guidance. I think Gary both from the technology committee and from the commission, do you want us to put together a formal proposal, you know, what number of homes we would serve, what the final cost would be, what we would be looking at from the county? How do we need to proceed on this?

Gary Friend said are you saying you won't do it without the county's involvement?

John Greene said I can tell you that it's not going to be financially viable without some type of a grant, like a lot of these areas. I mean, it's \$60,000.00 per mile for burying fiber cable, and both of these projects are in excess of a mile. Even if I pick up one business and a dozen customers, you're talking about thirty, forty, fifty-year pay back. It's very unlikely we would do it without some type of a grant, yes.

Mike said what do you think, Gary?

Gary Girton said I don't know. As I say, we're still discussing, the committee is. I think Dan left, didn't he?

Mike said if I were wanting to do this John, and wanting county support, then I probably would put together a proposal and supply it to the technology committee, and see where that goes.

John Greene said we can certainly do that.

Mike said I think that probably would be best. I'm just, I'm looking at this address list I got from OCRA.

John Greene said OCRA. It's pretty sad isn't it?

Mike said but it only has 2,147 residents in Randolph County that doesn't have service.

John Greene said yeah.

Gary Friend said is that residents or household?

Mike said 2,147 houses.

John Greene said locations is what they call it. And Gary, you're right, part of the problem with any of these grant programs, now the state grant program is typically a two-year time frame, so you have two years to get it built and customers hooked up. Most of these federal programs are five years. And it took a long time before a lot of these companies were actually granted you

know, authorization on ARDOF. So, when you start looking at a five-year time frame, that's pretty long for somebody that doesn't have any type of service.

Gary Friend said it is, and what you're asking the county is not grant money. It's taxable funds that will choose to help some people and tell other people no.

John Greene said right. Correct.

Gary Friend said and that's where I'm stuck with helping people that's already got it get better.

Mike said okay. Thanks John.

John Greene said alright. Thank you.

**Other Business:**

**Minutes of October 2 and 9**

Mike said that brings us to other business, minutes of our October 2<sup>nd</sup> and October 9<sup>th</sup> Commissioner meetings. We received a copy of both of those via email. I trust we've reviewed them. Any additions, corrections or deletions to the minutes?

Gary Friend said none for me. I'll make a motion to accept them.

Gary Girton seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

**Payroll Claims \$289,487.85**

Mike said next item is our payroll claims which are at our place in the amount of \$289,487.85. I'd entertain a motion to approve the payroll claims.

Gary Girton made motion to approve. Gary Friend seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

**Regular Claims \$1,991,446.26**

Mike said next item is our regular claims which we received a copy of these via email in the amount of \$1,991,446.26. I'd entertain a motion to approve.

Gary Girton made motion to approve. Gary Friend seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

**IN. Gov-web site claim \$3,000.00**

Mike said next claim is for Indiana Gov. It is our web site annual payment for our web site posting and development in the amount of \$3,000.00. I'd entertain a motion to approve the claim to Indiana Gov.

Gary Friend said what is that actually?

Mike said they did our web site.



Gary Friend said they did our web site?

Mike said yeah, they did our web site, and it's \$250 a month is what they charge u for that.

Gary Friend made motion to approve. Gary Girton seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

**Randolph County United, commercial video project claim \$5,000.00**

Mike said next item is the Randolph County United claim for the commercial video project in the amount of \$5,000.00. This was a project we participated with Tourism and the City of Winchester and Union City, and Randolph United, and some private partners. I'd entertain a motion to approve.

Gary Friend made motion to approve. Gary Friend seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

**Randolph County United Monthly Claim \$18,467.66**

**Randolph County United Tourism Claim \$2,365.66**

Mike said next two claims are Randolph County United monthly claim in the amount of \$18,467.66, and the Randolph County United Tourism Claim in the amount of \$2,365.66. These are the monthly normal claims. I'd entertain a motion to approve.

Gary Girton made motion to approve. Gary Friend seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

**Angel Tree Request to place tree on first floor of Courthouse**

Mike said next item is an Angel Tree request to place a tree on the first floor of the courthouse as they do annually. I'd entertain a motion to approve this request.

Gary Friend made motion to approve. Gary Girton seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

**Children's Advocate Request for Grant Application**

Mike said next item is the Children's Advocate Request for Grant Application. This is an internal grant application so the Auditor knows what they're doing and how it's going to be paid. The department head is Jay Toney. It's for the 2024 year. Amount requested is \$20,454.00, and the amount of the match is \$21,000, which I'm assuming has been budgeted.

Danita Saintignon said yes, they have that budgeted.

Mike said they have that budgeted. Do you know what that is \$8,770.00?

Gary Friend said do the numbers all line up with our current approved budget?



Danita Saintignon said \$21,000, yes. I would say that's probably an additional grant or funding that they would get from the state.

Meeks said let me call the law office and I'll ask Kris if she's here.

Mike said okay. We'll let you do that. Thanks Meeks.

**Achieva Resources Grant approval letter**

Mike said next item is the Achieva Resource Grant approval letter. If you recall, we approved a \$5,000.00 payment to Achieva out of EDIT funds, and as part of their grant application, they need our commitment to file. So, I'm just going to sign that if it's okay.

Gary Friend said yes.

Mike said that brings us to the end of our agenda. Danita, do you have anything for us?

Danita Saintignon said two sets of permanent minutes to sign.

Mike said okay.

Meeks said she's not here so, it's a grant and you just signed it, so I assume it's okay.

Mike said well Danita said maybe it's an additional grant they're going to receive. We don't need to have matching funds on, if I'm reading that right.

Meeks said capacity.

Mike said capacities, capacity building.

Meek said oh, capacity building, that's probably.

Mike said what does that mean? Two sets of permanent, do you have anything else?

Danita Saintignon said other than ambulance load system.

Mike said oh, that's right, yeah. We probably should talk about that. I think we all got an email from Duane regarding the bill for the load system. It is \$29,727.35. That is \$27,212.00 for the load system and \$4,675.00 for a three-year maintenance agreement, and a trade in of \$2,500.00 for the cot that is over ten years old. The lead time is five weeks, but that could change. This quote expires 11/01/23. And I think we determined that we do need the load system.

Gary Friend said we do.

Mike said so, it's a matter of, and we bought the ambulance out of ARPA.

Gary Friend said we did.

Mike said so do we want to buy this load system, and do we want to pay for it out of ARPA?

Gary Friend said I believe so, and I'll make a motion to that effect.

Mike said I have a motion to buy the load system as quoted in Duane's email of \$29,727.35, including a three-year maintenance agreement and paying for the load system and maintenance agreement out of ARPA funds. Do I have a second?

Gary Girton seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Mike said well I would say we go ahead and approve this request for grant application.

Gary Girton made motion to approve. Gary Friend seconded the motion.

Mike said for a \$20,454.00 grant, I have a motion and a second. All in favor signify by saying aye.

All aye votes. Motion carried.

Gary Girton said while we're on Duane's email, there's some good news there about the potential part-time and maybe full-time paramedics, which we've been almost begging for, for a good time, or for several years.

Mike said that is good news. Meeks, do you have anything for us?

**Meeks Cockerill – Lease extension for the camp, Farmland property for ambulance service**

Meeks said I do. The church, I was trying to find the email, but are still waiting on the survey, and so their lease expires at the end of the month. Probably be nice to extend that throughout the rest of the year. And I can tell them that. I cannot find that guy's email. I apologize. So, I think that's probably a good idea.

Mike said I would agree.

Gary Friend said I'll make a motion to do just that.

Mike said I have a motion to extend the lease with the church at Camp Slingshot to the end of the year, December 31, 2023. Do I have a second?

Gary Girton seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Mike said anything else?

Meeks said yeah. The other issue is the ambulance lease. Everything is fine with that and ready to go, and I think I got a deed over there to them. So, we should have that all wrapped up within the next week or so.

Mike said oh, the Farmland?

Meeks said yeah, the Farmland. So, hopefully that gets all wrapped up pretty soon. There was a hiccup on the church, and that might take us a little bit longer with the title to the church, the title to the church property, Camp Yale, there's a little bit of hiccup on it. Sorry.

Mike said you flip flopped around there.

Meeks said I know. I know. I'm trying to find the email. I'm trying to find the email and talk to you. There was a hiccup when we got the commitment because there was a lien from, and I can't find the email, but not from Camp Yale, the one before Camp Yale. And that was Casa, I think Casa, Inc. It looks like they didn't pay some withholding taxes. So, I think the state put a lien on it. So, I wish I had the email here. But, 8 or 9,000 bucks. I think we're just going to roll it over and say hey, well you can't do a mortgage anyway. That lien will eventually expire. And I think it will expire about 7 or 8 years. So, if you don't mortgage it, you're not going to really, it's not going to really matter to you.

Mike said you don't want to go after any of the Casa

Meeks said that's like 12 years ago. So, it looks like that Camp Yale got it. Well then, after Casa, then it was Camp Yale, Inc., then after Camp Yale Inc., the Y, and then after the Y, us.

Mike said okay.

Meeks said when I read it, I don't actually think Casa owes it. I think they just didn't file their proper paperwork back 12 years or 14 years ago, when they should have closed it.

Mike said anything else?

Meeks said I'm sorry for skipping around. I could not find the email. That's it.

Mike said Gary, do you have anything?

**Gary Friend – Farmland ambulance building, morgue**

Gary Friend said the two things I had are connected to the property in Farmland, so we can in, our next meeting, discuss the next step after it's all secured. And I did talk with Duane. He would like to see us put birthing quarters on.

Mike said what?

Gary Friend said birthing.

Mike said okay.



Gary Friend said and I've been approached by a couple council people as well to do the same. Moving that on, I spoke to Duane and the coroner, his name eludes me at the moment, Darin.

Mike said Darin.

Gary Friend said and it is a feasible opportunity to put the coroner's station at the current EMS station once the other building is built.

Mike said okay.

Gary Friend said and he drew a small.

Mike said freed up space.

Gary Friend said yeah. Two bays would be free to do exactly what he needs to do. The only concern you have to overcome, is the loading from the outside in. That could still be done securely by backing directly up to the door, or even maybe a makeshift carport, something, you know, just to keep it secure.

Mike said yeah.

Gary Friend said with that, this whole project could serve and fix two issues that we have.

Mike said yeah. That sounds good. Gary?

Gary Girton said no more than what I have.

Mike said I don't have anything else this morning either.

### **Citizen Comments (3 minutes)**

Mike said do we have any citizens here this morning that have a comment? Bob McCoy.

Bob McCoy said well, I sat in on a tax sale last week, and first time doing that. The city actually bought the taxes on one house that we're going to tear down if they don't decide to pay the taxes in the next year. And I sat beside a guy that probably spent \$70,000 on a bunch of different properties. Come to find out, it's an LLC out of Georgia. Seems like that's a constant thing all the time. And then when the LLCs pop up later that they do end up owning the homes, then the owners, non-existent, just stick a yellow sign in the yard, and we're dealing with a blighted property in no time at all. I didn't know, Danita may be able to answer this question. Is there a registry where they've got to register a property owner for that property, a local or a property manager?

Danita Saintignon said you mean when they register to bid?

Bob McCoy said no. Once the property is acquired by that LLC, are they required, if they're based in Georgia, are they required to have a local property manager, a contact?



Meeks said I think you're required to have a registered agent to do business in the state of Indiana. Most of them don't. Well, not if you're an LLC. If you're an individual, you can, I can live in Indiana and buy something in Ohio.

Bob McCoy said it's just really hard to deal with somebody out of state, once it gets to that point. Then another question was, the last meeting I sat in, we were talking about blighted homes out in the country, and how they're handled, if they're handled. And one that comes to mind is if you go out on 27 before you get to 5 Points on the left-hand side of the road, there's a house that used to be a church, years and years ago. I think it's been setting there for 25 plus years, just setting there falling apart. I didn't know whether there's anything, whether the county has got an ordinance in place where you guys can go after the owner and they come tear that down, or again, I don't even know who the guy would be, whether that would be Randy that would do that or what. But, or is there something maybe, in the future, we can look at.

Mike said the only thing we have now is a nuisance ordinance.

Meeks said it's the same as the city, pretty much.

Bob McCoy said okay. So, they could attack a property?

Meeks said yeah, if the, and we did that in Lickskillet, and we've done it, was it in Econ, I forget. It was Lickskillet.

Mike said we've done several of them.

Meeks said yeah.

Mike said and it's the same situation that if there's cooperation when we do it, then we can get something done, if there's not, then we have to balance that against going into a court and suing them.

Bob McCoy said and of course, there's an expense because more than likely, you're going to end up eating it, because it will go against property taxes.

Meeks said right.

Bob McCoy said I was just curious because.

Mike said but if there are blighted properties in the county, I would encourage citizens to reach out to Randy. He is the front line there. He could do a nuisance contact and we can go through the process and see where it takes us. The other matter is the Board of Health is an opportunity too. If there is a situation where it creates an unsanitary condition, then they have a little more authority than Randy does.

Meeks said there's actually a form they fill out if there's a blighted.

Bob McCoy said well I know if it's occupied as far as the health department is concerned, probably, that's an easier thing for them to attack. But if it's been setting empty for 30 years and it's falling apart, that's probably more of a blighted situation that Randy will.

Mike said but it could be occupied by rodents and things that if I'm a neighbor, could affect my health, next to me, so. That needs to be, but we don't have a force out there looking for that. So, then it requires the citizenry to reach out to the departments.

Bob McCoy said thank you.

Mike said you're welcome. Any other citizen comments?


**Adjournment**

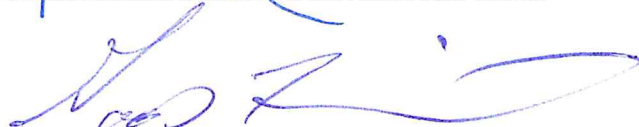
Mike said hearing none, I'd entertain a motion to adjourn.

Gary Friend made motion to adjourn. Gary Girton seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.

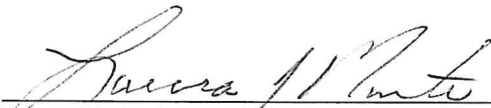
Reviewed and signed this 6 day of November, 2023.

RANDOLPH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

  
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ATTEST:   
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Laura J Martin, Auditor of Randolph County