

Randolph County Commissioners

February 5, 2024

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 Vice President Gary Friend and Gary Girton. Also present was Randolph County Auditor Laura J Martin, Sheriff Art Moystner and County Attorney Meeks Cockerill.

Pledge of Allegiance

Opening bids for bridge #250

Gary Friend said we'll officially open the commissioners' meeting for today. And we're going to open the bids right off? Bids for bridge 250.

Meeks said we have two bids, replacement of bridge 250, Hoosier Pride Excavation Inc.

Gary Friend said hey Joe and Mike, while he's opening these bids could you come up please?

Meeks said this one is a total \$862,975.97. And the next one, Duncan Robertson Inc. This bid is \$890,088.12. So usually you take these under advisement, have them look at it, make sure it hits the specs.

Gary Friend said want to take these Joe and look at these, and then if you come to a conclusion by the start of other business, I'll have you come up and tell us what you got.

Joe Copeland said yes sir. I'll do it.

Council's update

Gary Friend said thank you. Alright, council update. We have at least two from the council, I see. Bev?

Bev Fields said I don't have anything.

Gary Friend said Missy?

Missy Williams said I don't have anything.

Brenda Tharp, Treasurer – Board of Finance minutes

Gary Friend said okay, the Board of Finance minutes. I've read them. Gary, have you read, had a chance to read the finance minutes?

Gary Girton said yes, I have.

Gary Friend said do you have any changes, corrections of additions?

Gary Girton said I didn't see any. I'll move we accept the minutes as presented.

Gary Friend said I'll second that. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Rhoda Davis - CY25 grant application & Advisor Board appointment

Gary Friend said next, Rhoda. I see you have a new members and is this your project income grant request?

Rhoda Davis said yes. I'm here to request for the grant application for calendar year 2025. The figures will not change. We'll still stay with the \$218,700.

Gary Friend said issues with that Gary?

Gary Girton said I have none. I'll move we grant this request.

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

Gary Friend said what else have you got, Rhoda?

Rhoda Davis said well, I had a couple of advisory positions that opened up and was unaware that I needed to come to the commissioners for those until that was opened up at our last board meeting. So, we just wanted to make you aware that Olivia Faddis took over, the advisory board, put her in place of Gabe Winkle's spot. And then we also had the ex-offender position opened up, and we Tori Wallace. They voted for her in that slot. So, we're just coming for approval from the commissioners for that.

Gary Friend said does that take approval?

Meeks said I believe so.

Gary Friend said okay.

Gary Girton made a motion to approve the advisory board recommendations. Gary Friend seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Gary Friend said anything else?

Rhoda Davis said that's it.

Wendy McDavid and Sherri Thompson – flex hours, monthly phone stipend

Gary Friend said Wendy and Sherri, Health Department.

Sherri Thompson said good morning. The reason that we were coming is we wanted permission to flex our hours at the Health Department so that we could reach more individuals in the community that can't make it during the regular hours.

Gary Friend said well what do you mean by flex hours? Is this going to be a set schedule?

Sherri Thompson said yes, it will be a set schedule.

Gary Friend said then it's not flex hours, that's schedule, that's just a different schedule.

Sherri Thompson said we will not have the same hours as we've had before. We won't be adding any hours, of course.

Gary Friend said the only reason I bring it up is the county doesn't do flex hours, as what flex really means.

Sherri Thompson said right.

Gary Friend said so you just want to present an alternate schedule?

Sherri Thompson said yes.

Gary Friend said okay. When can you give us that schedule?

Sherri Thompson said I can tell you right now if you'd like. We would like to do Tuesdays from 10 to 6. Of course, we'll be open at 8, and we'll offset our hours for whoever works that. And then on the 2nd and 4th Friday and Saturday, on Friday, we would work 8 to 11 because Saturday we would work 8 to 12.

Gary Friend said can you put those in writing for the commissioners?

Sherri Thompson said sure.

Gary Friend said do you want to start that right away?

Sherri Thompson said I think Wendy talked about starting in April.

Gary Friend said okay. I was going to recommend that so we can bring it back for the final approval in the first meeting of March, and then we'll have all of us here to make that decision.

Sherri Thompson said okay.

Gary Friend said I would appreciate, myself, having the exact hour schedule that you wanted to do.

Sherri Thompson said I can do that.

Gary Friend said Gary?

Gary Girton said yes, I agree.

Gary Friend said anything else?

Sherri Thompson said the other thing the phone stipend.

Gary Friend said is that for the new person?

Sherri Thompson said yes.

Gary Friend said okay.

Sherri Thompson and we're not asking for any additional money. We'd just be moving money from one line creating this other line.

Gary Friend said what do you think, Gary?

Gary Girton said I don't have any problem with that.

Gary Friend said I don't either.

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

Sherri Thompson said thank you.

Gary Friend said before, we have a lot of additional appropriations, are you going to stick around for them in case there's a question?

Sherri Thompson said yes.

Gary Friend said thank you.

Debra Johnting, Ordinance 2024-03 Amendment to the zoning map

Gary Friend said Debra Johnting. Before you get started, I've seen this request and I voted for it to bring it to the commissioners at the Area Planning, which go no, no votes. So, go ahead.

Debra Johnting said well to me, it seems more of a correction. There was a section of property with some residential houses around. It's always been a business. The entire, about 21 acres. There were .4 acres that's marked as residential. So, to continue building on to a non-residential building that's there, they can't do that in residential. And to start doing variances in residential for that, would be a nightmare. We don't want to go that way. Returning it or fixing it, I guess, to ag would never prohibit residential housing there.

Gary Friend said Ag 1?

Debra Johnting said yes. But, it will allow them to add on to the building that's there.

Gary Friend said right, correct.

Debra Johnting said it's really the best way to fix it, the only way to fix it.

Gary Friend said any questions, Gary? I have reviewed this already

Gary Girton said no, I don't. You had a favorable recommendation?

Gary Friend said yes. What we'll have here is we'll take a vote here, and then providing it gets two aye votes, then in two weeks it'll be back on the agenda for the second reading. So, Gary, would you like to make a motion for the first reading of this ordinance, which is Ordinance 2024-03 an ordinance to amend the zoning map of Randolph County, Indiana?

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-03

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING MAP OF RANDOLPH COUNTY, INDIANA

WHEREAS, Shawn & Brooke Patterson, Property Tax Key #009-00738-01, State Key #68-13-09-700-022.000-016, 552 E 400 S, Winchester, Indiana, 47394, Randolph County, Indiana, having heretofore filed a petition with the Area Planning Commission requesting an amendment to the Zoning Map of Randolph County, Indiana;

WHEREAS, the Area Planning Commission of Randolph County, Indiana held on January 17, 2024, pursuant to notice, a public hearing on said petition, as provided by law; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners of Randolph County, Indiana have received the Area Planning Commission's report of a Favorable Recommendation of said petition to amend said Zoning Map;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE RANDOLPH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, that said Zoning Map (APC2024-2-Z) be, and the same is hereby amended as follows:

Section 1. The following describes real estate located in Randolph County, Indiana, which is now zoned R-1 (Residential, Medium Density) shall hereafter be zoned A-I (Agricultural, Intensive). Legal description is attached hereto and marked as Exhibit "A".

Section 3. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon passage by the RANDOLPH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

Gary Girton said I move we have the first reading of Ordinance 2024-03 as presented.

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

Gary Friend said okay. First reading is complete. Second reading will be in two weeks on Monday. I personally don't believe you should have to come. Do you have any questions for him?

Gary Girton said do you think he should be here, the next one, Gary?

Gary Girton said not with the Planning Board gave him a favorable recommendation.

Debra said and we heard from neighbors around, and they were surprised that is was even residential.

Meeks said I would just say the next meeting is two weeks from tomorrow, because it's the holiday.

Gary Friend said oh, thank you.

Jennifer Lee – Talking is Teaching

Gary Friend said Jennifer Lee, talking is teaching.

Jennifer Lee said good morning. My name is Jennifer Lee. I am with Chances and Services for Youth. We are part of the child care resource referral work for the state of Indiana. We are also a supporting organization for the talking is teaching initiative. Randolph County was awarded a \$125,000.00 grant through the Indiana Department of Education, which allows us to enhance early childhood literacy experiences through talking and reading and a singing campaign that encourages parents and caregivers to talk, to read, to sing with their children from birth. The main goal of this initiative is to increase the number of children who are proficient readers by third grade. This grant, we can use it to create trusted messengers. So, these would be people that would encourage the parents, give the parents the information that they need, to provide resources. One of the things that we're doing is we're providing resource bags that will have parenting information and items that parents can use with their children. These will be distributed through, we're looking at our doctors' offices, maybe the WICK office. But then the third part is transforming spaces. And this is the biggest piece of the work that we're doing. And this is just two create a welcoming space in places that parents have to go with their children, such as the WIC office. And that's the location I'm here about today, the 325 South Oak Street. Myself and Ashley with United Way, met with Amanda with the WIC office and talked to her about this program. And asked about transforming a small space in the building for parents and children to interact with each other while they're waiting to be seen, whether it's through the WIC office, or if they're there to meet with somebody from First Steps or with Centerstone, it is a common area. And this could look like having a book shelf or a table and chairs with books, or signage that would encourage conversation. So, it could be a sign on the

wall that talks about fruits and vegetables and having the kids discuss. What color are the fruits, is it a fruit or a vegetable, those kinds of things. We would need some partner ownership with this because we can't be there everyday to maintain the space. It would be small, and it would just be a matter of if there's trash, making sure the trash is picked up. If their property is, if we put out table and chairs, if it gets damaged, we would work to replace that. But again, this is, this is something that we're doing throughout the county. We have, we've met with Ascension. We're doing a space there. We are also looking at doing some transformation at some parks. We are leaning on our students to help with the transformation at the parks. And we are utilizing local vendors as well, as much as we possibly can. So, I'm here today to ask for permission to set an area up in the common area of the WIC space.

Jake Donham said I can get with and kind of brainstorm, and maybe we can come up with you know, an idea or direction. It's whatever you think.

Jennifer Lee said yeah, let's do that.

Gary Friend said we can get all coordinated in two weeks on Tuesday or the first week of March.

Jennifer Lee said okay.

Gary Friend said I don't have any problem with this. I just want to make sure we're all on the same page. Any questions for us? Gary, what do you think about that?

Gary Girton said I just think we need to leave it up to Jake and her to come up with a recommendation, because they're different options they can take. And whatever she thinks and Jake, whatever you come up with, as long as it's feasible and working for you and it's working for Jake, I don't have any problems with it at all. I think it's a good idea. It's just a matter of logistics I think right now.

Jennifer Lee said okay.

Gary Friend said I think the commissioners should review the final draft.

Gary Girton said well I agree, but I just think it's, I'm not going to sit here and make a recommendation, do it here or do it there.

Gary Friend said no, I was just meaning on the

Gary Girton said I understand and like I say, I'm not

Gary Friend said okay. Do you need anything else from us other than that?

Jennifer Lee said no.

Gary Friend said okay. Well it sounds like we've got a plan started.

Jennifer Lee said thank you.

David Reese and Bob McCoy – Use of Opioid funds for addiction assistance

Gary Friend said David Reese

David Reese said good morning. I'm here today representing Drug Free Randolph County. We're here to talk about the county's opioid settlement funds, and kind of fact finding and sharing some information with you all at the same time. I know Gary has some familiarity with the local coordinating council. Just for some information, \$507 million is Indiana's total allocation for the opioid settlement. As of November 2023, just \$7.1 million has been actually allocated or spent. We believe after one year that that amount reflects counties' hesitation to spend the money, just because of the difficulty of actually figuring out how to manage the funds. And it's like a lot of other grant opportunities where when you look at all the criteria involved with it, it's kind of like nailing jello to a tree. Trying to figure it all out. So, we know that Randolph County's allocation thus far, is \$94,207.83 in restricted funds, \$36,999.81 in non-restricted funds. There are amounts that go to the towns and cities. If it's less than \$5,000, we understand that money reverts back to the county. If it's above \$5,000, that, those funds will stay with the towns and the cities to allocate. We have some thoughts on how to possibly utilize the opioid funds. We would like to see some type of county coordination of drug and alcohol programs more so than what we have currently. We would like to see the creation of a county coordinator position, operating costs, office equipment services, etc., and you might ask what currently exists and why isn't it adequate. Well currently, drug free Randolph County is our local coordinating council. Oversight is provided through Indiana Criminal Justice Institute; a behavioral health division oversight by a commission. The Indiana Code titled 5 Article 2, Chapter 10 is where we get our guidance from. Just a little bit about our history, it's been in existence as far back as I can recall since the 1980s. Our local coordinating council grew from basically the Randolph County Drug Task Force and it has since evolved into where we are today. There was back in, I believe it was the late 90s, early 2000s, we obtained tobacco grants and at that point, we received our 501C3 status. And basically, when that money was spent, we have basically just become oversight over drug free communities, funds. I don't know if that term is new to anyone. Essentially, the state of Indiana has set up a situation where offender fees for crimes related to drug and alcohol offenses, when they are assessed at the county level, 75% of that money is sent to the state. It's returned to us through our auditor to be utilized for administrative costs, for treatment intervention programs for criminal justice enforcement and prevention education. There are four different categories included within that, and there is a 25, 25, 25, 25 split. That's state mandated. That's firm. It cannot change up. When we do our grant cycle, our funds have to be allocated within those four areas locked in, no questions asked. In 2022, our annual budget was \$7,325.11. In 2023, the funds that we have to use towards our grant cycle is slightly more than that at \$8,846.51. You can well imagine this system at the state level is antiquated. It favors our larger counties with annual budgets that when you look at a place like Marion County or St. Joe or Allen County. Their annualized budgets right off the bat, can support a paid staff, office, whatever their needs are, grant writing, etc., etc., etc. But then our smaller counties, we are largely volunteer. Our growth is dependent upon seed money to build capacity and to go after larger grants. The same laws that govern the urban areas also govern us, which means that we're subject to all of the guidelines that the major cities have without the resources and the staff to really do an adequate job. So, at this point, we are seeking,

at some point, we're going to narrow down what we would like to see from the opioid settlement in terms of being able to hire a county-wide coordinator.

Gary Friend said this settlement, is it going to come into us every single year?

David Reese said the settlement, it's going to come every year for the next...

Mayor McCoy said 2038.

David Reese said until 2038, yeah. Bob is our treasurer. He has the breakout of the allocation amounts. Thank you, Bob.

Mayor McCoy said and there's more coming. That's just the first of probably two or three other settlements that's, I think there're some other, I think CVS, Walmart, there're some other ones going on.

Gary Friend said do you have an actual plan for us?

David Reese said we are actually here today to kind of share with you our idea, our thought of establishing a county-wide coordinator, and hopefully, to be able to utilize those funds to essentially get us started. We've got Jay County to our north, Henry County, more recently that has essentially had seed money to establish a county-wide coordinator to be able to build capacity within their groups to be able to expand. And I think Jay County, they employ six or seven at this point, and they have an extensive amount of grants, and they've been able to do that through grant writing by coordinator. And that's a missing piece. As executive director, I have that you know, six or seven, sometimes ten hours a month, to really try to do this. And it can't be done to the extent that it really needs to be done to address the problem. So, that's kind of where we're at. I realize we have some, we have some research to do. What we're thinking in terms of salary or compensation would be commensurate with what to expect. We obviously, want someone with a lot of experience that can come in and hit the ground and run, and not have to struggle or to be given over guidance in terms of how they need to pursue some things. And we are aware there are some really strong applicants out there, potential applicants that would be available.

Gary Friend said the \$709,000.00 on this page, on the restricted side, that's the total in aggregate up to 2038?

Mayor McCoy said yeah. That's the total as of right now. Like I said, there's more than likely coming, and then the non-restricted, do you see the total there, \$304,000, and that's for everybody involved. And I think Dave agrees, what we figure is we'd make some sort of, put the bug in your ear, get the ball rolling, and then we'll take the Winchester council, we'll take the Union City. I think everybody is kind of in the same position. When it comes to the restricted portion of this, it needs to go to a certain area, and it needs to be spent. It's pretty restricted. So, to have somebody that's qualified to get people into treatment, start programs locally, I mean that's been the thing for many years. We just don't have the resources. And this money is sitting here, and a lot of people are like scratching their heads, what do we do with it? Non-

restricted on the other hand, Winchester has used a little bit of it. I think Union City has used a little. That's a little bit easier to issue out. If somebody had a request if it relates to drug testing or things like. But the restricted really is, we need to use it for what, why the settlement is there to begin with. And I think, and Dave is currently the director of Drug Free Randolph County. I'm the treasurer, but if we were to come up with a plan, I would not be the treasurer. I think Dave would basically be stepping down as well. We would be more than likely, be on the board, and our discussion was that again, I think a commissioner, possibly a councilman would also want to be on the board, and would be handled similar to like solid waste, or something like that. Would be, not something that would be, we wouldn't be on the salary ordinance.

Gary Friend said right. So, I guess what you need from us or what we need from you, is we need an actually concrete plan of how you are going to do it. I'm not opposed to getting the plan and then putting the money to work. I'm not, but, we're not going to put the money out without a plan.

David Reese said correct. That's exactly what we hope to accomplish today.

Gary Friend said Gary?

Gary Girton said I agree. Some of these settlements have just kind of trickled in. We know that, from just hearsay, that there's more out there to come, and that we need to get a plan together like you said, so, that when we get things pretty well organized here, it can move forward.

Gary Friend said when you put your packet together for us to review, put in that the restricted, non-restricted categorial uses so we can refer to it quickly, if you would. I've read it, but I can't recite it back to you right now. But I agree too. We need to put the money to use.

David Reese said absolutely. Thank you very much.

Gary Friend said thank you.

Daniel Baker – RCU Contract, Requesting a Letter of Support for the Next Level Connections 4 Grant, Stellar Communities, READI 2.0

Gary Friend said Daniel Baker. Alright, first your contract. So, Gary, have you had a chance to review the written contract?

Gary Girton said yes. Is this the correct one?

Laura said yes.

Gary Girton said that says per year.

Laura said I seen that and it's not per year. That's the total for three years.

Gary Girton said it's total for the three years?

Laura said yes. Where it says \$810,000.

Gary Girton said it says for each of the calendar years.

Meeks said we'll amend it to say total for three years.

Gary Friend said for the calendar years 24, 5 and 6?

Meeks said you can strike that. Everybody knows it's \$810 for three years. I'll make that a little clearer. I'll send out a new front page. I'd vote on it with the amendment.

Gary Girton said I didn't see anything else. I'll move that we approve this contract with the amendment on the front page.

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

Gary Friend said okay Daniel, about your letter?

Daniel Baker said alright so, we have been approached by multiple ISP providers for the next level connections around 4. My understanding is there's about \$90,000,000.00 remaining in that grant. We, as Randolph County, had actually not received any of the next level connections per the map I was able to pull up. And when talking about, this is a state funding, right. This isn't the federal funding for ARDOF or anything like that. The priorities that they have, they gave two priorities. Priority one is going to be those that were ARDOF locations that were relinquished. We had quite a bit of those in the area.

Gary Friend said ARDOF. What's that mean?

Daniel Baker said I will have to go back and look for it. I'll have to go back, and look that up. So, there are 1,298 locations within the county that are under that priority one and most of those locations are going to be from between here and Farmland area. And then there's some on the east side of Winchester as well.

Gary Friend said what about the north of Randolph County?

Daniel Baker said those were not part of the ARDOF that was relinquished. But the total, so when we get into priority 2, that's where the northwest portion. And we also had brought that up multiple times in the meeting. So, I'm representing the technology committee here. And that is one of our priorities when we've met with these ISP providers. We said our priority is really the northwest portion because that is one of our fill-the-gaps that we've been focusing on for years trying to get that filled. So, the total, and this also kind of leads, will come out probably in May or June time frame, we'll look at those applications. And that's the federal funding that the state received. But this is to finish out the next level connections for the state funding. And so, out of the total connections that they're looking at in this round is about 4,000, around 4,000 plus connections that we have. We received a map and we'll send that to you guys. I just didn't have; my printer actually broke before I came over here. So, I will get that over to you guys. So,

the letter of support that we are requesting is a pretty broad letter of support. As you probably know, each ISP provider wanted us to give a specific letter of support toward that ISP provider. But, at the technology committee, we felt it better that we have competition in the area, so that we can provide better service to our residents. So, I think everybody received a letter of support, and it's pretty straight forward. There is nothing in there talking about the county saying that we're going to provide match funding or anything like that. In the program, it does call for a 20% match, but I haven't been able to identify if that's from local funds or from the ISP providers or where that's from. So, we need to hunt that down. So, I'm just here this morning to ask for you guys', your support.

Gary Friend said for the letter?

Daniel Baker said just for the letter, yep.

Gary Friend said I would think the 20% would come from the providers. 80% is coming to help them. We'll see.

Daniel Baker said yeah, okay.

Gary Friend said I read the letter. I don't have a problem at all with it. Gary?

Gary Girton said no, I've read it and I think we need to approve it. We need to get as much in here as we can.

Gary Girton made motion to approve the signature on the letter of support. Gary Friend seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Daniel Baker said alright. If I may, I have one more thing that we are going to be working on over the next year or so. Let me pass these out. I'm not sure if you heard about the Stellar program that got released. This was released by OCRA a few weeks ago, and right now, we are currently in conversations with Winchester and Union City to be part of this program. It is a county-wide program. We are going to be talking to the other towns and municipalities and see if there was any involvement that they would like to have. Right now, I have Mayor Spence and Mayor McCoy on board. And then, I have not been able to talk to Mike because he's been on vacation. I didn't want to bother him on vacation. But once he gets back, we'll have a conversation. I would like to create a committee of county commissioner representative, and county council and some others in the community to start putting this together. There's quite a bit of funding in grants that we can go after through this stellar program. My understanding, ready through this and talking to our OCRA representative is that this is focused more on rural area than it has been in the past, and they defined it. They had some better definitions around what rural is, because we all know that rural is different when you get closer to the donut. So, I think the program overall, would be good for us, and we're also going to be connecting with Rush County because they received the stellar communities a few years back. So, we're going to be able to see what they did and work with them. So, just wanted to let you guys know.

Gary Friend said how's that work connecting Rush County, do you jump over two counties?

Daniel Baker said no, I mean connect with them just to see what their process was, not connect with them in the program, just connect on how they went through the process.

Gary Friend said okay. Alright.

Daniel Baker said and if I may, just because I know you have a couple things on your agenda.

Gary Friend said it's quite alright. Go for it.

Daniel Baker said okay. So, the letter of support for READI 2.0, you guys have received that, so I would request that be placed on your agenda.

Gary Friend said we've got it on the agenda.

Daniel Baker said okay. Because we are going, February 16 is the application deadline that we're going to be submitting for that.

Gary Friend said is the airport the only thing you have on there?

Daniel Baker said so no. We have multiple projects on there. We have airport. We have brave little learners, which is out and that's the Union City Pre-K. We have Governor Greys mansion, we have trails, we have a couple housing projects coming. There're more, and we're also working with the Winchester High School on their welding program. We can't spend, the READI funds can spend money on the programming aspect, but we can look at asset type stuff like the welders and different things like that. And then our understanding from the IUDC is once we received whatever the amount is, we have time to put more projects against it. It's not like the first round of READI where you had to have the projects ready right then. We have time to build more projects. So, as we work as a community, we will be putting more projects against it. I've met with Monroe Central, and then I'll be meeting with other school districts and others in the community to bring in more projects.

Gary Friend said are we in the same region as we were last time?

Daniel Baker said we are, yes.

Gary Friend said are the allocations going to be divvied up the same way they were last time?

Daniel Baker said so, we're working on that. I can't tell you exactly what that's going to line up just yet, because we haven't gotten to that point. We've been working so hard just to get to this point in the application process. But, I can tell you that the amount of work that has gone on between all the other counties in the region has, from my understanding, because I wasn't in the first round, but from what everybody is telling me, it's complete different. It's like 180, but everybody is starting to work together. Everybody has got the, we all have the same issues, right? We have housing issues, we have all the blight issues, we have all of that. So, just the amount of community involvement has been tremendous to put that regional plan together. Also,

we, there was an announcement by Lilly, they gave \$250,000,000.00 to READI and my understanding is that's to blight and to art. We don't have all the details. The only details I have is that the projects for that \$250,000,000.00 will be a separate application than the 500,000,000 given by the state for the READI, just due to the timing of when that grant was provided to the state for it.

Gary Friend said is that still 4 to 1 match?

Daniel Baker said it's still a 4 to 1 match.

Gary Friend said 4 being private?

Daniel Baker said it's 3 to 1, sorry. So, it's 3 to 1 and 1 to 1 local. So, 3 to 1 private, philanthropic and 1 to 1 local. And that's at the portfolio level. So, if we were able to get projects that, one of my projects has probably about a 5 to 1 local match. So, what we can do is take the rest of that and put it to a project that may not have a local match. So, there's some funding out there. Last year, I believe the private and philanthropic was 16 to 1. So, we were well over the 3 to 1. And then, if I remember right, I'll have to get these statistics, I think it was like a 2 to 1 or 3 to 1 on the local match. So, we were, as a region, we were well above that match. So, we're looking at ways to kind of build different strategies around, what are projects that we may not be able to get a philanthropic match or a local match on and move those projects forward.

Gary Friend said is that it?

Daniel Baker said actually, sorry, the last one, the trails. You guys have that on your agenda to vote on.

Gary Friend said yeah, we have it on our agenda to hire an engineer.

Daniel Baker said any questions for me?

Gary Friend said I do not. Gary? Okay. Thank you, Dan.

Daniel Baker said okay, alright. Thank you.

Joe Copeland and Mike Haffner bid recommendation for bridge #250

Gary Friend said Mike, have you and Joe reviewed the bids, you want to come up?

Joe Copeland said two bids, low bid is Hoosier Pride Excavating. The Form 96 is here, non-inclusion affidavit is here. So, I would recommend to award to the low bidder, Hoosier Pride Excavating.

Gary Friend said for the record, where is bridge 250?

Joe Copeland said it's on 950 South, west of Lynn. It has a load limit on it now. So, this will help. Their bid amount is \$862,975.97.

Gary Friend said you would recommend we take that one?

Joe Copeland said yes sir.

Gary Friend said okay. Gary?

Gary Girton said no, that's fine. I'll move we accept the county engineer's recommendation on bridge 250 bid from Hoosier Pride.

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

Joe Copeland said I do have a couple pieces of paperwork. I have to get this to INDOT in a limited amount of time to keep that money. And first is the acceptance section of Form 96, which is right here and then I always put per plans and specs. And then I need signatures. And the other is the actual contract that was in the bid specifications.

Meeks said it's normal if you want the money.

Gary Friend said I just wanted to be sure.

Joe Copeland said then here's the contract, you can sign that, page 2.

Gary Friend said anything else?

Joe Copeland said oh, uh, yes. Construction inspection for that project, I did receive a proposal from SJCA to do that. Here's their proposal. Part-time inspection and for a total of \$34,429, I just rounded it off to 35,000. It would be a task order. It will be hourly, not to exceed. So, it should come under that amount.

Gary Friend said okay. Is this already in a funding plan?

Joe Copeland said yes. The WIND that we received was for the total estimate, engineer's estimate. Total engineer's estimate was just under \$1.3 million. Now we've come in at 800 or 900.

Gary Friend said plus this?

Joe Copeland said so, yeah. So, we're talking \$432,000 less, alright, which means a savings to us in our 25% of \$108,000.

Gary Friend said does this task order have a number?

Joe Copeland said no, I've got to get the task order. If you'll give me the okay, I'll work on the task order, I'll have it at your next meeting.

Gary Friend said okay. What do you think?

Gary Girton said so what's your total not to exceed?

Joe Copeland said \$35,000.

Gary Girton said oh, I see it, \$34,429.

Gary Girton made motion to accept this recommendation. Gary Friend seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Joe Copeland said I'll have the task order at your next meeting.

Gary Friend said thank you.

Other Business:

Art Moystner, Randolph County Sheriff, Resolution 2024-03 Surplus Property, K9

Gary Friend said Sheriff. We have a resolution for surplus property.

Art Moystner said it's a vehicle we were going to keep as a pool vehicle. Union City has contacted me. They've picked up another K-9. That vehicle actually has the kennel in it, so they are going to purchase the vehicle and kennel both.

Gary Friend said you need this resolution then. Gary, any issues with the resolution 2024-03, a resolution to declare certain personal property of Randolph County.

RESOLUTION 2024-03

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

Vehicle:

2016 Dodge Charger

VIN 2C3CDXKT3GH28673

EXHIBIT "A"

Gary Girton made motion to approve Resolution 2024-03. Gary Friend seconded the notion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Art Moystner said I have a few other things, one I had sent out an email, I think last week, regarding the K-9 at the department had some health concerns. I guess one of the things that I would like to discuss today or like to explain today is there is a class that's open for K-9 that starts at the beginning of April. Those, sometimes fill up pretty fast. They only have three or four of those a year at most. With this one starting in April, I'm betting they're only going to have a couple, two or three this year. The cost for that I think that I'd sent to you guys was \$15,900 to replace the K-9. I guess I'm not looking for a funding source now, but this obviously wasn't something that I was aware of when we did budgets. And I would like to be able to secure a spot in the class in April, not necessarily no where the funding is coming from, but to know that I've got, that we can find the funding. And I'm kind of looking for either from you guys or council, this week so I can secure that spot, because I think it will be full by, in another week or two at most.

Gary Friend said I would think council certainly would have to approve an additional appropriation in your budget out of County General. This is part of the general, normal operations.

Art Moystner said it is. So, I can approach them with that. The other thing I wanted to let you guys know is I had told you, I believe at the end of last year, we'd put in for a grant for some things at the jail to replace, as far as washers and dryers for the laundry for inmates and what not, we did receive a \$50,000.00 grant to replace some of that. I wanted you to know that. There were a couple of items we were turned down on, so I will be coming back to you with those items. The other thing that I wanted to discuss or to put on your agenda, and I had some questions, and I just want to put this out is, our tablets in the cars are going to, what we have now currently operates on Windows 10. My understanding is sometime in 2025, Windows 10 will no longer be serviced, no longer, we won't be able to use it. We'll have to go to Windows 11, and the machines we currently have, we can't do that. I had contacted LEAP and requested a quote for new tablets. One question I have that I'm confused on and would love to discuss at some point is, they gave me a price for the equipment itself, but there's also a set-up, a configuration fee for each one of the devices, that's \$350.00 apiece. That takes me to a grand total of \$31,050 to have all 18 of those computers done. And I understand if we're bringing in new projects and what that contract does, but I'm curious why when we're replacing existing equipment.

Laura said any computer that they replace, it's in the contract.

Art Moystner said and it's set up that way?

Laura said yes.

Art Moystner said and I guess that's something that when they're replaced for the other offices, does that funding come from that office, or does that funding come from the computer?

Laura said it depends on if they have the funding or not. If they have the funding, then yes, they pay for it. If they don't, then we find a way. We go to the council or commissioners, whatever.

Gary Friend said do you have the funding in your budget?

Art Moystner said currently, yes.

Gary Friend said I would just honestly consider just paying currently when the budget gets to be short, you just return for additional appropriation. And the reasons why are obvious.

Art Moystner said okay.

Gary Friend said so I wouldn't worry so much about that. You should start on your budget first.

Art Moystner said and I have no issue doing that. I just know that there are several things that we've done and to run short in February or March and to use half of a line item concerns me this early in the year.

Gary Friend said I wouldn't let it concern me, I mean, first of all, we do have funds in County General. We're not up against the razor like we've been before. Second is, it's a needed expense. I mean I would wonder why these computers wouldn't take Windows 11, I don't know. You're asking the wrong person on that. I'd have to go right to LEAP and have them tell me.

Art Moystner said okay. And that might be a discussion that I have with them. I know you guys are the ones that contract them.

Gary Friend said who's telling you those computers won't work with Windows 11?

Art Moystner said the LEAP is telling us we can't load it in those devices.

Gary Friend said okay, then that's where I'd have to be.

Art Moystner said okay. That's what we'll do from there. The other question I have for you is do you have Chris Shaneyfelt on your agenda for today?

Gary Friend said I do now.

Art Moystner said okay.

Gary Friend said I spoke to him before the meeting.

Art Moystner said okay. I just wanted to make sure he was going to get an opportunity.

Gary Friend said one question for you. How did the jail walk through go? I apologize, I could not be there.

Art Moystner said I think it went well.

Gary Friend said was it comprehensive?

Art Moystner said it was. We'll see what they come back with as it goes. That's the only thing that concerns me is I know that when we initially started talking, they were talking about the feasibility study. And I was asking what the feasibility was for, and they started talking about building a new building. And I told them that's not what we were looking at doing currently.

Gary Friend said but do you feel like that you got, you were able to speak to them everything that concerned you?

Art Moystner said I did.

Gary Friend said okay.

Art Moystner said so, we'll see how that comes back and see what kind of follow ups we have. And I will keep you guys in the loop.

Gary Friend said oh, I know you will. Thank you.

Art Moystner said you're welcome.

Gary Friend said anything for the sheriff, Gary?

Gary Girton said no.

Payroll Claims \$326,249.02 & \$328,311.85

Gary Friend said payroll claims for \$326,249.02 and \$328,311.85. Like to make a motion to approve those claims.

Gary Girton made motion to approve the payroll claims as presented. Gary Friend seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Regular Claims \$1,994,893.11

Gary Friend said and then we'll get to regular claims, \$1,994,893.11.

Gary Girton made motion to approve regular claims as presented. Gary Friend seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Milestone Contractor's claim \$734.02

Gary Friend said Milestone Contractor claim. This was brought up last month as an overage on the runway, correct?

Laura said yes.

Gary Friend said we should have already approved it, would you like to approve, make a motion to approve this claim, \$734.

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

Housing Resource Hub January claim \$2000.00

Gary Friend said Housing Resource Hub January claim \$2,000.00.

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

Eastern Indiana Regional Planning Commission Claim \$9676.40

Gary Friend said and then the Eastern Indiana Regional Planning Commission for our dues, \$9,676.40.

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

Hiring of Butler Fairman & Seufert for Randolph County Vision Trail

Gary Friend said and then hiring of Butler Fairman & Seufert for the Randolph County Vision trail. Mike has recommended that we hire this engineering firm. I agree with Mike. They've already done some prior work on the granting?

Gary Girton made motion to accept the recommendation and hire this group. Gary Friend seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Gary Friend said okay. The Tower Clock Company.

John said I'm John Swiedel with Butler, Fairman and Seufert. Just wanted to say thank you.

Gary Friend said oh, you're welcome.

John said we greatly appreciate it, we've worked with Mike extensively on this a little bit through the application process. So, we're excited to continue on it. Thank you.

The Tower Clock Company proposal

Gary Friend said Jake, you want to come up? Clock tower, Jake. Do we need to do this maintenance?

Jake Donham said this is 100% new to me. I have no idea what you're talking about.

Gary Friend said how bout you take this and review it real quick, and then I'll call you back at the end of the meeting.

Jake Donham said is there something wrong with the clock tower I didn't know about?

Gary Girton said this company said they worked on it before or had been involved with it before.

Gary Friend said I'll call you back up.

Jake Donham said the only thing I will tell you is there has been 100% nothing done to the clock tower since renovation. So, I have no idea, I can review this and come back the next meeting with an opinion but.

Gary Friend said why don't we just, can you go back to the back of the room and just review it and I'll call you at the end of the meeting. Then we'll take your recommendations from there. Thank you.

TrueRoll -Full Service Homestead exemption Audit

Gary Friend said TrueRoll-Full Service Homestead exemption.

Laura said Tim in my office, Tim does the exemptions in my office and he and I did a demo with this company. Basically, they'll come in, they'll take our information and audit it for double exemptions and such. It was pretty impressive the way they do it. I would like to do it and do the full service, because I don't feel like we have the time to do the investigation that it takes.

Gary Friend said does this cost the county just a percentage?

Laura said yeah, 35% of what we, what they save us the first year, will go to them for payment.

Meeks said think Hamilton County must have done it because they had a claim come in.

Gary Friend said pardon me?

Meeks said Hamilton County must have done it also because they had a claim come in. He had the exemption there and his wife had an exemption here.

Laura said yeah, and I think it happens more than you think.

Meeks said so they dropped the exemption here because Hamilton County's a higher rate.

Gary Friend said obviously, yeah. Okay.

Meeks said it might help us a little bit more.

Laura said I sent Meeks this contract for him to look at before I brought it. And he said it was okay.

Meeks said I think it's a good idea.

Laura said yeah.

Gary Friend said Gary, what do you think?

Gary Girton said well I think after I first read it, I thought this is great.

Gary Friend said would you like to make a motion?

Gary Girton made motion to approve a contract with True Roll. Gary Friend seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Farmland EMS building

Gary Friend said Farmland EMS building. On the EMS building, I have reached out to Thor Construction and Briner Building for other options on it, so we have all the information possible to move forward. Envoy did come back with a cost increase with a significant, actually it was from 350 to 650, which has to include them doing that BOT. Before we step into something like that, I think we should have more options to look at. So, nothing is stopping.

We're just getting more information. I will tell you the discussion I had with Danny Stamper from Thor Construction was pretty encouraging.

RAZ 32 and a joint meeting of Commissioners and Council (March)

Gary Friend said RAZ 32 and a joint meeting of commissioners and council in March.

Laura said I know the RAZ 32, the superintendent, I know Rollin Abraham and Monroe Central, Adrian and Arron Black from Union City came and they were talking about, and I'm not exactly sure, but it has to do with the schools coming together to do an educational program.

Gary Girton said yeah, they got a grant.

Laura said do you know more about it? I don't really know how to explain it.

Gary Girton said not a lot, just a little bit.

Daniel Baker said I do. So, is it career pathway. Daniel Baker said this is also something we're involved with. So, RAZ 32 as you mentioned, agreement between Monroe Central, Randolph Eastern and Randolph Central to do career pathways programs that may not be offered to the students at those individual schools. So, like a welding program would be offered to students at the other two schools. The business program or the art program at Union City, or Monroe Central is going to be doing IT program and some other programs.

Gary Friend said they presented all that. So, what's happened since the presentation?

Daniel Baker said they finally executed all the letter agreements between all three school districts and they're still in the process of hiring an executive director. They had to go back out for another round of that. They had a couple of applicants there and then, my understanding is a joint meeting will be, there will probably be some requests and things like that for the county's support. I don't have all those, I can't speak to that. But there will most likely be a request to the county, probably around transportation and some other things.

Gary Friend said are you liaison for them?

Daniel Baker said I am just here as a representative of Randolph County United, and I am involved to help the industries be involved in the programs, got a lot of industry partners as well in this program. So, this is just information that I have.

Gary Friend said and I trust they'll give us a request for funding well ahead of the meeting?

Daniel Baker said yeah, that's my understanding. We met last week, and my understanding is that will occur.

Gary Friend said and you will meet before our meeting in March again? Do you meet monthly?

Daniel Baker said the Raz 32 program meets monthly, and they should be meeting, yes, because we met the end of January. Should be meeting again in February. I don't have the date of the top of my head.

Gary Friend said I know the council, myself and the commissioners will want to see what kind of funding requests they're going to have ahead of time.

Daniel Baker said I'll let them know.

Gary Friend said so, how do we get a date right now with so many moving parts?

Laura said just, he said in March, he just wants a date in March. So, if you want to give me a couple of dates that you guys would be available, then I can send an email.

Gary Friend said Thursday evening in those last two weeks of March. How's that work for you, Gary?

Gary Girton said sounds good.

Gary Friend said at 7. Want to start there? How's that work for you, Meeks?

Meeks said I'm looking. I can tell you the fall break is, I believe the last full week of March.

Gary Friend said that wouldn't be a good week.

Laura said so, do you want me to give out the 14th or the 21st and see what works best for the majority?

Gary Friend said yeah, this is Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

Laura said right. Both of those are Thursdays. And I'll send out an email and see what the majority can do. That's what I usually do when you do meetings like that.

Gary Friend said are you alright with that, Gary?

Gary Girton said yeah, as of right now.

Gary Friend said alright.

Clerk's request for grant application

Gary Friend said clerk's request for grant application. Did we approve this?

Laura said they've actually got their equipment from the state, and she didn't know she had to do this. This is an in-house paper that we keep for audit for state board. So, we really just need approval, because it's already a done deal.

Gary Friend said can we approve this far after the fact?

Meeks said yes.

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

Ertel Bus April 23-25, 2024

Gary Friend said Ertel Bus. We just need to approve the dates. Gary, have you looked at this?

Gary Girton said yes, I will make a motion to approve. Gary Friend seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Weber Equipment Service Contract

Gary Friend said Weber Service contract.

Laura said this is renewal on the service contract for the county assessor's copier.

Gary Friend said okay. Gary would you like to make a motion on this?

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

Letter of Support READI 2.0

Gary Friend said letter of support for READI 2.0, this is what Daniel was talking about. So, we have a letter presented here, Gary.

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

The Tower Clock Company proposal

Gary Friend said okay. Jake, are you ready to give us your opinion?

Jake Donham said absolutely.

Gary Friend said come on up please.

Jake Donham said so, pretty much what this is, a guy just cold calling with a letter. It looks like he may have been involved with installation. But he's saying his records show that it may be due for certain services. I'm going to reach out to him. He's wanting us to do like a service agreement of \$800.00 and he's going to cover this stuff. I'm going to reach out to him and see if he can do a time material.

Gary Friend said let us know next meeting?

Jake Donham said I'm probably just going to run it out of my maintenance budget, just do it so we don't have to worry about coming back. If he's something he's done maintenance-wise, I'm already doing the annual on it where you go up and check the oil in that if we need to, in the oil bass and adjust the time when need be. But he's saying there maybe some bands and other things that need adjusted or checked.

Gary Friend said synchronizing?

Jake Donham said yeah. Tightening of the hands and stuff. That's out of my wheelhouse. I'm going to reach out to him and talk to the expert on it and see what he says and see if we can do a time material.

Gary Friend said you said your own maintenance budget, I don't think you need any action from the commissioners.

Jake Donham said no, I'm just going to do it myself. I don't need you guys. If I run out of money, I'll come back then. I will, while I'm up here, were you done with this on the clock? I'll take care of it.

Gary Friend said okay got you.

Jake Donham said Wednesday at 10:00 Argo is going to be back with his engineer to do another walk through the jail and do some more homework and stuff. If you guys are available, I know it's short notice, and trying to finalize their end of it, get you a proposal of what it would need to do.

Gary Friend said okay. Alright. Appreciate it.

Gary Girton – 4-H Septic system

Gary Girton said there was a note in one email we got about the 4-H wanting some more land. Is that involved with coming under the grant of the request for the new building permit?

Gary Friend said yes. They need that regular septic system. To do that, they're going to have to put a mound system in. To do that, they're going to have to have some land off that back, which is at least 250-foot in depth and 330-foot width for the system.

Gary Girton said that's a big one.

Gary Friend said well there's a lot at times, going on out there.

Gary Girton said I understand.

Gary Friend said so that part of it, I think we don't need to be doing.

Gary Girton said so, that's involved in their projected cost or is this an easement?

Gary Friend said no, right now it's involved. They just need the land. The discussion then is shall we just square it off and go all the way across, and let them expand their camp ground as well, and keep that square. That's not their request. That's just something I brought up.

Gary Girton said something we can talk about.

Gary Friend said would you say you're in favor of that right now, Gary, as it stands to get a new septic in?

Gary Girton said yeah, I'm not opposed to it, although I'm not sure about going clear across.

Gary Friend said I understand. But the main request for the septic system.

Gary Girton said oh yeah, we've got to put that, we've got to get that system in. I know it. I didn't realize it was going to be that long, but I understand, because I have put in mound systems for the houses.

Gary Friend said yeah. Going all the way across just what come up in conversation, we'll go to just chunk out a square if they have need while they're expanding out there, do this one time only. And they know that. There's no guarantee on it. Anything else?

Gary Girton said no.

Additional Appropriations:

Drug Free Community	
Prevention Education	\$2211.65
Treatment	\$2211.65
Criminal Justice	\$2211.65
Discretionary fund	\$2211.65

Gary Friend said Additional Appropriations. Drug Free Community. Is there a split out of the grant, is that correct?

Laura said yes.

Gary Friend said Prevention Education, \$2211.65, every line is the same. Gary would you like to make a motion to approve this?

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

Health Department

Registration/Conference	\$1785.00
Office Supplies	\$12004.00
Enviro Health care	\$211.00
Travel/Mileage	\$2000.00

Clinic Supplies

\$31135.00

Gary Friend said Health Department, these are additional appropriations for the Health Department. The second part of, do you mind coming up here real quick, please? Are all of these related to the additional monies that come in?

Sherri Thompson said yes.

Gary Friend said okay. So, a large portion is the actual, to support the increase in wages that was approved by the council, get appropriated out of a new budget amount?

Sherri Thompson said yes, the first section there, that is additional money that was given. We had to wait until they seen how many counties opted in.

Gary Friend said I understand, yeah.

Sherri Thompson said and that's what that is for. And then the second portion is for the raises.

Gary Friend said right. So, the registration/conference, 1785, office supplies, that's \$12,004.00?

Sherri Thompson said yes.

Gary Friend said what you got it in your budget already?

Sherri Thompson said for office supplies, I think it was around just 2,000, I think.

Gary Friend said so you left it low anticipating this, okay. Thank you. Enviro health care is \$211.00, travel/mileage, 2,000. Did you get vehicles?

Sherri Thompson said we have not yet.

Gary Friend said so this is reimbursement for travel?

Sherri Thompson said yes.

Gary Friend said are you still looking for vehicles?

Sherri Thompson said yes.

Gary Friend said clinic supplies, \$31,135.00?

Sherri Thompson said we have different lines in ours that showed we have, that will go for like diabetic supplies, that will go for, there're several different areas that goes through, but to put it in the budget, we just put it in that way.

Gary Friend said and then this second page here, the coordination/registrar, these are the raises approved by the council getting a budget item into the budget?

Sherri Thompson said yes.

Gary Friend said and the PERF, Medicare and Social Security, okay. So, that page one totals \$47,135.00 and the other page is \$36,565.00. Any questions, Gary?

Gary Girton said no I don't have any.

Health Department

Coordination/Registrar	\$7353.00
Public Health Nurse	\$13741.00
Sanitarian	\$7226.00
Social Security	\$1756.00
PERF	\$6078.00
Medicare	\$411.00

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

ARPA

Spillman Update/Upgrade Motorola	\$33529.54
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Gary Friend said ARPA, Spillman update for the jail. Gary would you like to make a motion to approve this appropriation?

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

Wheel Tax

Road Projects	\$900,000.00
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Landfill Host fee

Road Projects	\$800,000.00
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Gary Friend said Wheel tax road projects, 900,000. It's already been approved. For usage, we just need to approve the appropriation, correct?

Laura said I don't think we.

Gary Friend said Mike, have we approved this for usage already, or is this new?

Mike Haffner said this is new.

Gary Friend said do you want to come up? Both of them are new?

Mike Haffner said we're just budgeting our wheels tax and landfill host, because that is not done during budget season.

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

MVH

Bridge/Structure	\$1,000,000.00
Bridge/Structure	\$700,000.00

Mike Haffner said and then your MVH additional, that's basically, the support of the bridge and structure progress for Joe's funding.

Gary Friend said okay.

Gary Girton said move approval.

Gary Friend said we have a motion to approve bridge structures for \$1,000,000.00, bridge structures for 700,000?

Gary Girton said yes, I did. Gary Friend seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Gary Friend said Gary, anything for the meeting?

Gary Girton said no, I don't have anything. I just had the one question about the sewage.

Gary Friend said Meeks?

Meeks Cockerill, Joint meeting dates

Meeks said I thought he had a question about the joint meeting. Instead of March 14th, could we make that March 13th for the special meeting. I will not be able to go on the 14th.

Gary Friend said it works for me. I just stayed off Wednesday because of church interference.

Meeks said okay. Maybe the 13th and the 21st then, just to see. And I think, don't forget Chris Shaneyfelt.

Gary Friend said okay. Thank you.

Meeks said I have nothing else.

Chris Shaneyfelt & Eric Hiatt – Emergency communication system

Gary Friend said Chris. Thank you, Meeks.

Chris Shaneyfelt said in the last month, maybe six weeks, we've met, the sheriff and I have met with our counter parts in Ohio, Darke County, Ohio to try to boost some issues that we've had

going forward. And then, two weeks ago, roughly, we met with Union City because they are combining their government agencies. So, that requires us to do some different things with our CAT operations.

Meeks said when you say combining, they're combining with Union City, Ohio?

Eric Hiatt said we're collaborating. I wouldn't say combining. There's a lot of government issues we've got to work out yet. But the emergency services are working more closely together as units.

Chris Shaneyfelt said and they're sharing the same buildings and equipment and things like that.

Meeks said I just don't know how that works. Is there a contract between the two of you?

Eric Hiatt said there is, yes.

Meeks said can we get a copy of that?

Eric Hiatt said absolutely. Just make that request, the mayor would have those.

Meeks said my understanding of how those work is if an Indiana governmental agency wants a contract, I think they, some of that stuff has to go through the state of Indiana, Indiana Attorney General's office. That goes to the Ohio Attorney General.

Eric Hiatt said yeah there's a lot of work and we've been working for months. And we've been talking with politicians and government agencies, and all that stuff. In general, I respectfully and asking that you authorize the communication department to terminate the use of the VHF communications frequencies for standard communications.

Art Moystner said and to clarify with that, because with that request, I want to note that this is down the line. This isn't today. This is something that we set a date in the future that we're going to get everybody onto the 700-megahertz system. So, I want to clarify that this isn't something that we're looking for to happen in the next month or six months.

Chris Shaneyfelt said we're looking at a date of probably two years. That gives them time to, those agencies that are not using 700 megahertz to then purchase enough equipment that they can function on 700 megahertz. I believe we have three departments. It may be two, but I believe three that are still operating entirely on VHF.

Gary Friend said who are they?

Chris Shaneyfelt said Losantville, I believe Ward Township and I believe Modoc is partially operating on VHF. I know they have 700 megahertz pagers, but I don't know if they have radios.

Gary Friend said what's that cost a small department to make the switch?

Chris Shaneyfelt said if they buy portables, I would say roughly \$2,000.00 a portable, and then if they put mobiles in their truck, they're looking 36 hundred, 35 hundred, somewhere in there.

Eric said a pager is about \$650 or \$700.00.

Gary Friend said so a small town like Losantville, what would that be an impact on them?

Chris Shaneyfelt said well Modoc bought the pagers and they, if I remember correctly, they got theirs through a grant. And like he says, they're roughly \$750.00. So, they bought at least four that I know of. But Modoc doesn't have a very large responder base. So, I wouldn't really want to say what the cost would be, or how much it would harm or hurt them but, then again, we've been dealing with this tower project for three, four years now.

Gary Friend said well it's not new news, right?

Chris Shaneyfelt said no. I mean, these guys have had time to plan to budget for or come up with some sort of funding source to start buying pieces here and there. All the other departments have.

Gary Girton said who all was involved in the grant? Wasn't it, White River, Ward, and Lynn and somebody else, and that grant, the one they just got.

Chris Shaneyfelt said the one they just got, yeah, there're five departments. But Modoc's pagers were bought separately.

Gary Girton said they got theirs with a grant.

Chris Shaneyfelt said yeah, it was a grant, I think through Best Way or somebody like that.

Gary Girton said I think so.

Chris Shaneyfelt said and, so, our issue is you know, we've had a recent fire where mutual aid was requested and then when the mutual aid companies arrived, they couldn't speak to the department that was requesting the help. So, there was communications issues on the fire ground. I mean that's really out of our control other than saying we give them a drop-dead date and you know, they have to have 700 megahertz to communicate with us. And the reason that I told Eric we needed to come to you guys and to the council, is just for the mere fact that we had, at one point in time, said you know, we will have VHF and we will keep VHF, which I had no problems keeping VHF. But if we don't force these guys to, at some point in time, come up to speed with us, they they're never going to do it. They're just going to stay on the antiquated equipment.

Gary Girton said I think I agree with that, because I've been involved with it from the start. And I think you know, we want to keep the VHF, but we've got to push these guys. We've been

trying to push them and push them, and they just wait until the last minute, and then they say well, we don't have the equipment.

Chris Shaneyfelt said right.

Gary Girton said well that's true, but then they didn't do a whole lot because there's been a lot of grants out there that some of these departments could have gone to and applied. And if they didn't get it one year, they could have got it the next. They've been available for several years.

Chris Shaneyfelt said right. Well, and the current representative for the fire chiefs, when I talked to him by email just recently, you know, he's talking like that the communication issue is lower priority than them getting fire gear or something like that, which I understand. Fire gear is expensive, and you know, we need to keep them protected. But there's also that communication.

Gary Friend said so, you're looking, the commissioners didn't say listen, and I agree with Gary too, we need to set a drop-dead date. Then need to know that we're going to do it.

Chris Shaneyfelt said and I, because I don't, I'm not an elected official, I didn't feel that I had that authority because the elected bodies made the promises or the agreements that we would keep VHF. And like I said, I don't have a problem paying for it. I just, we need to push them forward to get, they have to start operating on 700 megahertz.

Gary Friend said I wouldn't want to give you a date today without Mike being here for sure, but I would say that I'm in favor of there's going to be a drop-dead date coming out. And I think two years is enough.

Chris Shaneyfelt said well that's what, I was figuring one of 25.

Eric Hiatt said well given the fact that you started down this road five years ago.

Gary Girton said well they were all heads up, at least three years ago, they were told they had to get their

Eric Hiatt said it is expensive. Union City spent the money. We have no VHF radios. It's a dying technology. We went to the 700 and let me tell you, thank you for the radio system. It works fabulous. You've done a great job. But it only works really well if everybody is using it. You've mentioned a couple problems, you had the large fire right here across the street that we had about every county department here and we had to work off a dispatch frequency because it's the only one we all can talk to each other. So, it's a problem. And Ward is my nearest partner to Union City. And they don't have the ability to talk to me at all. And I have no ability to talk to them. That's problematic.

Gary Girton said did they get anything at all with this new grant? They were involved in it.

Eric Hiatt said I don't know. It's my understanding that Ward and Lynn and maybe White River, all were trying to get some grant money, available money.

Chris Shaneyfelt said there were two agencies or three agencies that went communication route, and there were others that went equipment route, and did not do communications. But I don't remember.

Eric Hiatt said without the date, whatever date that is, I'm not here recommending the date. Without the date, they will never ask for the money or go get the money or make it a priority.

Gary Girton said I know that. We've been trying to go, we've been trying to go the other route, and it would be nice, I guess we can't do that. We're dealing with peoples' lives with a critical area. And that's why when Chris and I first started talking about putting in this new system years ago, that was the thing that he told me about an incident where they couldn't use the it, they'd get lost. That makes me stay up at night thinking of those kinds of problems they have. We've worked on it diligently. We've fought and fought and fought to get here because of the licensing and construction and everything, we've head headache after headache. But I think now, like you said, I think the system if working.

Chris Shaneyfelt said this system is working and it seems to be working well. I haven't had any issues reported to me in a while.

Gary Girton said I know Art, I talked to him different times when they first come on line, and he was well pleased with his people. And that was an area where I was concerned because Jay Harris had told me about a situation where he was personally involved and he needed help, and couldn't get any, just because our system wasn't adequate. But that's changed so, now we've got to get the people on the other end on line.

Gary Friend said I think they're right. The only thing is going to happen is we're going to have to discuss as a whole body, that we're going to put a date out, I think two more years, might get so we'll put a date up, but I don't want to lose the perception that cities and what not that have more revenue sources are in a different situation than the volunteer forces out there. They do have to, they only have so much money. So, I don't want to lose the fact that their pain is real. Their priority is something we may have to help them set. They do have issues with their funding. There's no doubt about it.

Gary Girton said and we've discussed that in the past. We know that, but we've got to get some things.

Gary Friend said oh, I agree.

Gary Girton said we've got to get some things worked out, like you said, and these people have to know that when it comes that time that they've got to have it.

Gary Friend said I just think, I understand their pain. And, they are not in the same category as Winchester and Union City.

Eric Hiatt said they are not, for sure.

Gary Friend said we can't talk like they are if what I'm saying. But we have to do it and it's got to be done. I'm not saying it.

Eric Hiatt said yeah but, you know like we talked, where I'm sitting, they've knew this for three or four years. They could have bought five, two, every year, two, three, four, as their budget allowed, and we're down here to have a few of them. But we're now here at this age, and some of them don't have any. That was just a lack of commitment.

Gary Friend said I don't want to downgrade them because we don't know their circumstances. It's just their lack of, the priorities are different. We have to help set the priority. I would never say they didn't have a lack of commitment. They're doing it as volunteer. We just have to get there.

Gary Girton said that's true. But then they've known about it and I've talked to them about it and they've talked to me and said well we know we've got to get this. But they have, you don't see this in any grants applied for. That's the thing that indicates to me that there's a little lack of commitment, or they'd be out there trying to get it.

Gary Friend said okay.

Meeks said well I don't know if commitment, it's priority, because Losantville and Modoc are doing that sewer project and then that's, you know Gary, that's just eating up their funding.

Gary Girton said well I know, but I mean, I've been to these meetings, Losantville and Modoc, they got money to do that.

Meeks said yeah, we're going to go down, I'm going to the meeting next week because they have that, you know, they're doing all that sewer stuff.

Gary Friend said rather than bicker on how language is put, it's, I agree. We're going to get there.

Gary Girton said I go to all of those meetings.

Meeks said I know you do.

Chris Shaneyfelt said I just didn't, when we were talking in the meeting, there's, can't you just set that date, it's like no, I'm not going down that road because of the promises the elected officials made. So, I didn't want to do that on my own. I mean, I'm comfortable saying we need to do it.

Gary Friend said I think we need to too. And stay strictly with the priorities and reasons why we need to, and not, not saying anything about their situation they're in.

Chris Shaneyfelt said right. Yeah, I mean, I try to be fair about it. There's plenty of funding opportunities out there, even though if you have to go through their townships and things like that, because they all have contracts with the townships, as well as you know, their own individual small towns. So, even if they're buying one or two a year, that's making progress.

Gary Friend said but when Mike gets back, when all three of us are here in a body, we can discuss about getting a hard time on this, and I think we need to, and just be fair with them and go forward.

Chris Shaneyfelt said okay.

Gary Friend said anything else, Gary?

Gary Girton said no.

Gary Friend said anything else, Meeks?

Meeks said no.

Gary Friend said, where we at, Art, anything else?

Art Moystner said no sir.

Gary Friend said sir, we need your name for the record.

Eric Hiatt said Eric Hiatt.

Gary Friend said Eric Hiatt. Thank you.

Citizen Comments (3 minutes)

Gary Friend said anybody from the audience have anything to put in? Mayor, sorry about that.

Mayor McCoy said 2023-2, Community Crossings grant for Winchester. We just awarded the contract to Cobalt. That is going to be for the most part, from Washington Street, down Greenville Avenue to the new hospital, St Vincent. Probably be starting late spring. Finish date is October. That area is going to be very congested and busy so, just wanted to make everybody aware of that. And also, Laura, on the audit, is it just homestead or are they going to look at like, over 65 and all that?

Laura said I think it's just homestead for this.

Meeks said homestead. I think it only said homestead.

Mayor McCoy said I mean, is there anyway they can audit over 65?

Laura said I can ask.

Mayor McCoy said I mean, I've had a lot of people ask me about that, and that's, I don't know.

Laura said yeah, I can ask.

Mayor McCoy said okay.

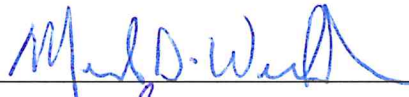
Gary Friend said anybody else?


Adjournment

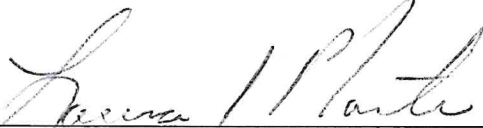
Gary Girton made motion to adjourn. Gary Friend seconded the motion. All aye votes. Meeting adjourned.

Reviewed and signed this 4 day of March, 2024.

RANDOLPH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS





ATTEST: 

Laura J Martin, Auditor of Randolph County