

## Randolph County Commissioners

December 6, 2021

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

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Michael Wickersham, President presided over the meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance

### **Duane Petry – EMS**

Duane said Culberson is closing their doors December 31 and Read Hospital Ambulance is going to take over the Wayne County part that Culbertson was covering, so that leaves us in a tight spot getting down there for ambulance calls. I talked to Read to see if they would cover the part of Union Township that Culbertson was doing and he said he didn't think the Wayne County Commissioners would let him sign a contract to cover Union Township for us. I am looking into when we have two ambulances in service having one of them in Farmland if we can come up with a place to put it and that would help out in the response time getting down in that southwest part of the county.

Gary asked how far north did Culberson come?

Duane said a couple three years ago we split it up and I'm not sure on the boundaries but the parts of Union Township that we could get to quicker than what he could, we did but all the way to the western part was like 400 South is how far he came up. Ove on the eastern side it was we took over a little section of Union Township on the east side.

Mike asked can you map that?

Duane said yes.

Mike asked do we know how many runs Culberson made annually?

Duane said the last time I checked, he was doing about 83 runs for the year.

Mike said I would think that maybe we should reach out to the Wayne County Commissioner's and see if they want to enter a memorandum of understanding, if they would cover the mapped area. If they're willing, ask what that cost would be. Work it from that angle and then you go ahead maybe see if you can find a location for an ambulance in Farmland when we have two and go in that direction. I would be willing to reach out the Wayne County Commissioner's.

Gary said that sounds like a good plan.

Duane said I will email you that map today.

Tom asked are they going to still have an ambulance in Hagerstown, in the same spot Culbertson did?

Duane said I don't know if it is going to be the same spot but they're plan is to have an ambulance in Hagerstown.

**Mike Kennedy – VSO Officer position**

Mike Kennedy said I took the position of part time Veteran's Service Officer until I could find somebody who was capable of doing the job. Bethany here has set in with me on several occasions to shadow me and see how the job goes and I think she would be more than proficient to take my place as the Veterans Service Officer. Do to my health I don't see where me staying in that position is advantages to taking care of Veterans. It is just not working out. I interviewed her and Gary's interviewed her. I am of the opinion that she is ready to take the position. I understand that the normal way of doing things is to consider the position and talk about it and then go to next meeting to determine whether she should be hired or not but I think the county has had a year and a half to find someone and we weren't able to do that but we have found her and she is willing to take the position and I think she is willing to step in right away with the special consideration from the Commissioners to put her in that position.

Mike asked she is wanting to be full-time?

Mike Kennedy said she is wanting to be full-time and I would gladly without any cost to the county help her make the transition smoother and we always have Cathy as the asset that we had before and she is as good as any service officer that I've seen but unfortunately, she can't hold the position. I think between my assistance and Cathy's knowledge and Bethany wanting to do the job, she is ready to step in tomorrow. I know it can't happen tomorrow but I think this is a situation with special circumstances and the county has had 1 ½ years to find somebody, we have a qualified applicant here, I think Bethany should be allowed to step into the position.

Mike asked do you have all the necessary certifications to be a veteran's service officer?

Bethany said not yet. I was talking to Gary last night and he said I could get them within a year. All the accreditations that I need.

Mike Kennedy said she would have them, talking with Mike down there, part of the in processing at IDVA is the certification testing and everything. So, she would do that within the first six weeks of taking the position. Then it would take another, depending on the Department of Veteran's Affairs, it could take anywhere from 3 weeks to six weeks to get her PIV card which is very important. I found out first hand, coming back in without having my PIV card, it's like being a blind duck you can't get any work done. I should be able to keep my PIV card active until she gets hers active.



Gary said my conversation with Bethany, she brought up the point that in the military she worked in Human Resources and I thought that was an important aspect. She lives locally and is interested in the job and wanting to do that. Mike has agreed to stay and help with questions or whatever is involved plus he would be able to sign papers and help with that until she gets her credentials. She would be if she meets the qualifications as far as meeting with Paula and all that she would be able to start immediately upon the conclusion of that material.

Mike asked you would be recommending her as well?

Gary said yes.

Mike asked you live in Farmland?

Bethany said I live in Farmland.

Mike said one of the concerns I might have is if you become the full-time Veteran's Service Officers is you would be entitled to the full-time Veteran's Service Officers pay and our current acting full-time Veterans Service Officer, Cathy who everybody is in agreement that she has done an outstanding job would be reduced again to the previous position and less pay. Cathy's here today and I'm not sure what we do about that.

Meeks said you can't do anything, that would be Council.

Mike said I know but we would be changing her position back to the full-time secretary and she would be paid the full-time secretaries wage. So, if that's been considered by everyone in the room and you're still recommending this change then Tom do you have any thoughts.

Tom said no.

Gary made a motion to hire Bethany Siebert as the full-time Veteran's Service Officer and Cathy Shull as full-time Veteran's Service Officer Secretary. Tom seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

#### **Meeks – Opening of annual bids for the Highway Department**

Meeks said the first one is from Cobalt Civil. The second bid is from Pritchett in New Castle. Milestone Contractors. This is from Asphalt Materials Inc. The next one is from Marathon Petroleum. The next one is from E&H Bridge. The next one is from Ag Best. The next one is from Duncan Robertson Company. The next one is Great Lakes Chloride. Klink Group. The next one is IMI. The next one is from Coalliance Cooperative Inc. The next one is US Aggregates. The last one is Civilcon.

Mike said we will turn those over to the Highway Department.

Mike Haffner said we can just accept all of them.

Gary asked how are they bidding the petroleum?

Meeks said we don't know yet, I think you just need to look at them to make sure that they comply. We generally will accept them all after you look through them to make sure they comply.

**Joe Copeland – Task Order #12 and Bridge projects**

Joe said this is for county bridge 110, 1200 West over Campbell Creek. This is for the part-time inspection, during the construction. The fee is \$15,994.00 and that is part-time, they don't have to be there all the time. Just when certain things happen.

Mike said it says 20 hours a week.

Joe said that is about right.

Mike said is this a not to exceed figure?

Joe said it will be as far as I'm concerned.

Mike said they are estimating 20 hours a week, 16 weeks for the project, that's \$320.00 at their rate and they're only saying 153 hours in the exhibit here. They've got about ½ of that in there.

Joe said a lot of, I don't know if you saw the detail, a lot of them are zeros. Clearing the right away and mowed and demowed they don't have to inspect, sediment removal they don't have to inspect. There is a lot of stuff they don't need to be, they're going to be there anyway for these other items.

Tom said that will take almost 4-months to do?

Mike said maybe that's the difference.

Joe said they should be able to do that quicker than that.

Mike said I'm not sure, have we seen a task order for bridge inspection before during construction? I don't recall. Is this usually included in something else or do we not have inspectors during construction?

Mike Haffner said the two that I've been involved with, it was already worked within the scope of the project. Then we had a final inspection as well. This one I'm a little bit confused because when we set the bridge 110 line up in cum bridge, what I believed had inspection fees right in that. I've still got approximately \$34,000.00 in that line. When we have Community Crossings match, I'd have to go back on that but as far as I was aware, when we budgeted that line, we budgeted big enough to be able to carry this part-time inspection. At the time we didn't know what it would take, I just had to guess.

Mike asked so we have the money to do this?



Mike Haffner said I think we already do. If we end up short, we may later have to do something. I believe the line is already there and we have the means to pay it out of what we already got.

Mike said if we were anticipating bridge inspections when we approve the project, I don't see any reason not to go ahead with it.

Tom made a motion to approve task order #12, supplement to the prime agreement with SJCA of \$15,994.00 for bridge inspection on bridge 110. Gary seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Joel said here is a draft. Taking into account all the projects that were put on the list by SJCA when they did the bridge inspections, down the line out to 2027 anyway for right now. Of course, this will change accordingly every six-months, twelve-months. I went through and looked at the structures that have asphalt on them. Particularly ones with asphalt or side by side box beams, there's 41 bridges that have asphalt. We need to get that asphalt off and something covering those beams before they go bad. The problem is asphalt sits on top of those beams, moisture sets on top of the concrete underneath that asphalt, asphalt cracks and then you've got problems. Major problems. I planned to take care of that down underneath bridge repair box beam bridges and I've put in \$200,000.00 a year to be able to do that. I figure I'd get at least 4 or 5 of those done every year. The other one is bridge deck repair and overlay and there's several bridges with that problem and that's why with the annual bid I've got a contractor hopefully everything's okay, that he can come in do that. He has employees that live in the Muncie area that do this particular type of project, bridge deck repair and overlay.

Mike asked how many of those are there?

Joe said I don't have that number in front of me but more than 10.

Mike said I now 174 and 175 are.

Joe said they should be on the list here, deck rehab and overlay, we're doing three of them. 162, 174 and 175. It will say whether it's a replacement or whether and these probably won't be all of them by the time we get farther down the road.

Mike asked are these three included in this \$200,000.00 or are these outside of that?

Joe said outside because these have already been committed to Community Crossing matching grant funds.

Tom asked are new box beam installations have a membrane on them, is that standard procedure now?

Joe said let me go back to that. I've put in several, over 50 box beam bridges, side by side prestress box beams and I've put a lot of them in but over the years it's been shown that these box beams, they get cracks under them. If the inspector sees cracks of certain types then they down grade the load. So, the loading on the bridge will go down. I think the thing that really

brought this to the Fed's attention was a box beam dropped on I70 in Pennsylvania. I seen pictures of it, it literally fell on I70, one lane. So, they're taking more interest in it. Box beams are more expensive then they used to be, they used to be able to get it from three different suppliers in the state of Indiana. As far as I know there is only one at this time. They're made in Cincinnati, Louisville, Ft Wayne and I think there are some other places in Ohio that might be able to make them. I called around before and tried to find other places that make an Indiana box beam, I found one in Illinois but he was hooked in with another company and I couldn't get a price from him because I had to go through that company. But they are more expensive today. I've been using a lot of the weathering steel instead of the concrete boxes. I don't have to paint them, their cheaper, they had been until steel came flying up but I think they are still cheaper.

Tom asked how many people make those?

Joe said I just received bids in Henry last Friday and I had two different suppliers for those type of structures. I suspect Civilcon will have a bid and E&H will have a bid also, so you've got two now. Some steel is going up drastically, steel shell pylon for the foundation for these things, I bought some in 2014 and I bought some this past year, it's went up three times, I paid approximately \$20 per foot back in 2014 today it's over \$60. Those are going through the roof, but one of the suppliers E&H says that their steel costs are only up 10 to 12% and that's all they added to their bid. Not only does the county need replacement but they need a lot of repair and rehab. The idea is to have these structures last longer. It would be nice to get 70 years out of a bridge, but you've got to do some maintenance on it before you get that.

Tom asked do you have a preference on bridge seals, a certain kind that you'd like to see installed?

Joe said if it's a multispan structure today they do bridges with no joints, jointless bridges.

Tom said a lot of our old bridges probably need seals in them.

Joe said if it's at all possible, the two fella's that are working on the bridge crew now, I would like to see them clean joints and take what they call backer rod, it's foam that you put down in there and then they can pour the joint right over the foam and fill it and seal it that way. It's easy to do.

Tom asked a homemade seal?

Joe said you can buy the chemical, I've used it before, it's easy to do, it's not that difficult and these fellas should be able to do that and save money. Have them do it instead of a contractor. If I've got a contractor on a deck repair then he'll be doing the joints. The bottom line here is if you look at the bottom figure, the last two lines, then next to the last line is the accumulated total cost, the last line is the accumulated total cash. That's assuming \$390,000.00 a year is being added to it. You'll notice that the very last column 2027 we're around \$4.6 million short to make this work. Here's the thing if we had \$4.5 million, all these numbers, we're not going to hit all these numbers every year. So, we're going to have some cash carried over into the next year.



Mike said the last line, accumulated total cash in each year is what's needed.

Joe said that's what we have to spend, the column below that accumulated total cost.

Mike said we are going to roll over some from 2022 to 2023.

Joe said yes.

Mike said that accounts in your calculation?

Joe said yes, I started with \$1.7 million. That's what I was given.

Mike said if I'm reading this right, your anticipating we spend \$237 of windfarm next year?

Joe said yes. All the red is windfarm.

Mike said we've already agreed to spend that.

Joe said that was my understanding.

Mike said in 2023 you've only got \$40,000.00 in here.

Tom asked would you like more?

Joe said yes.

Mike said if we did more. The difference of \$4.6 wouldn't be as great.

Joe said if we were to add \$750,000 a year to these numbers, it would make the almost \$8.7 million, it would be enough.

Mike said this is a lot of good information and it sets us off in the right direction.

Joe said at least we got a start. All the local projects that we do, I will have to order materials for that, I will have to order the bridge, I will have to order the foundation, rebar, pilings, guardrails, if I get approval to move forward then what I would do is I would start making a list of things I need to get on hand and get it in the yard so we will be ready to roll. Rebar went up again last week. We can try to put more on federal aid, the problem with putting it on federal aid, I prefer to put larger bridges on federal aid. Your talking probably five years out. The next federal aid call is I think 2028 for construction. Community crossings, it's nice to get 75% but that's only for construction, can't get design out of it. The smaller bridges I would prefer to do locally. I can get them done quicker and cheaper.

Mike said I am looking at for 2022 what we've approved, the amounts in that column have all been approved except for the bridge repair, culverts and bridge deck overlay. Am I correct in that?

Joe said I didn't see next year's budget.

Mike said I know Carl Street, we had the money in bridge cum to pay for the engineering. Short Street we used windfarm I believe and North Main we approved that when we agreed to go with federal aid. Now, I don't know about County Road 300 South.

Mike Haffner said that is a historic bridge.

Mike said Mudd Creek, 250, that proposal's coming. Bridge 32 maybe those two we have not approved yet. I agree that the bridge repair where the asphalt is on the bridge, I think that is probably something we should take care of. Are you looking for consensus or action on our part this morning or just to say go ahead and start on 2022?

Joe said I'd like to prepare this and get a copy to Council. Whatever is the best method to proceed. This is a draft, so I wanted you to see it first.

Tom said you should share it with Council.

Mike said I would definitely share it with Council but I think for me it looks pretty good.

Mike Haffner said also in this plan is bridge 159, that's the one I've been bringing to your attention for a long time. He's got it in his mechanism in numbers. What I'm suggesting and I'll know more after we go over the highway funding. I think I've got enough reserve money to more than cover that particular bridge. I would like to see that one started almost immediately and once I know my funding, then I'm going to come to you next month and ask for a recommendation that we give Joe that out of my resources to go ahead and get that project started and theoretically take it off that list. I think that was estimated in the \$250 area.

Joe said that is Geotech, engineering would be soils.

Mike Haffner said I think we have means in some left over MVH funds and some other means, like I said we'll know more after we have our funding meeting and there's a potential chance that we'd like to do that one out of our own funds so it's not even on that list.

Mike said it looks like replacement is planned in 2023 with our own funds. Your saying to move that up to 2022.

Mike Haffner said yes, if we have the funds available now, why not just do it now.

Mike said I don't know whether we do or not. It's not a priority of four.



Mike Haffner said a lot of this asphalt overlay on bridges, maybe I can have him give a plug. It's very hard to get asphalt companies to come in just do spots, you have to package these things together. That's another plus if we had our own paver, even a small one. Time frame whenever he would decide to do it, we'd be able to go in there with our own. How much did you estimate if we had our own paver we would potentially save?

Joe said your talking 50, 60 tons of asphalt. That could be as much as probably \$10,000.00. They're going to charge you, usually asphalt if your laying it miles at a time, your talking somewhere in the \$70 a ton range. This they will charge you better than \$200.00 a ton just to come in for a one-time deal. It's expensive.

Mike Haffner said it is a combination that if we plan on and are able to purchase, the money that we can save on doing our bridges would help justify. I haven't got all my numbers put together, I'm just saying there is a potential chance those numbers if we have our own equipment could be reduced.

Gary asked what kind of equipment do you need other than a paving machine?

Mike Haffner said a paver and a roller and a little grinder you would put on a bobcat to mill your butt joints.

Joe said installing these in Hancock, Madison and Henry, I have always had highway do the paving, I would tell them a couple weeks in advance, I'm going to need you over here and they could come over there pretty quick, otherwise I may have to keep the bridge closed for another couple weeks waiting on asphalt. It's a time problem too.

#### **Mike Haffner – Utility agreement, highway business**

Mike Haffner said I have a utility agreement basically 1760 N 200 W just a bore under the road.

Gary made a motion to approve the utility agreement. Tom seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Mike Haffner said the last piece is our copy machine lease. Joe is requested, he needs 11 X 17 capability. We don't have that capability, I've checked what is the cheapest route. Buying that independently or updating what we've got. We are currently paying \$87.89 a month and we have 15 months remaining. We got some quotes on basically keeping our lease but just upgrading the machine to have the capability of the larger paper. To get a middle line machine pretty much like we've got, its going to add \$45.25 a month for \$133.14 a month. I'm not asking for funding I'm just asking for permission to update the lease we presently have.

Mike asked this doesn't extend your lease any?

Mike Haffner said no, we still have the 15 months remaining, they will basically just swap the unit out to a bigger unit and charge more per month.

Mike said that sounds like a lot for an extra tray.

Mike Haffner said \$45.00 extra a month, yes, it prints and scans because he'll need capability to scan that and send it.

Mike asked yours doesn't scan now?

Mike Haffner said not that size, no.

Joe said when I get bridge plans, I usually print them out 11 x 17, it's easier to look at them and review them that way.

Mike said it sounds like something we need.

Mike Haffner said I have a few documents that it would be handy to put on larger paper but it sounds like it is something Joe is going to need.

Tom made a motion to approve the highway to lease a larger copier. Gary seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

### **Zach Schoenfeld - Headwaters II Amendment and Riverstart Solar Amendment**

Zach said Chris was not able to here this morning. I will be filling in for him. I have a few things to talk about, I ask Mike Haffner to sit here while we talk about Riverstart paving and the RUA. Paving is wrapping up out there, over the next two weeks it looks like they are putting in aggregate shoulders this week and the paving will be complete. Chris mentioned there is a section on 300 West that will be postponed to the spring because the aggregate, the process has to be 60 degrees or warmer. I think you are aware of that, we just wanted to bring that to your attention. This project, Riverstart as well as Headwater's II kind of the same scenario, the paving is wrapping up there. Aggregate shoulders are being place. We're hoping Mike to have you and your team get to those roads and inspect them and let us know if you see any issues. I think Scott Fisher is doing both areas. We just want to make sure the product and the quality is up to your expectations. We can create a punch list and knock those out. To go along with the paving there and Riverstart I brought an updated, a revised RUA for that project. I think Chris sent it over to Meeks late last week, I know it was short notice, I'm not sure Meeks got a chance to review that and has any advice. There were a few sections that Chris wanted to make sure was brought to your attention. Section II paragraph 2 in short seven days at the end of construction, road work for the county to go out there and have that feedback addressed. That's on page 2 section 2. Then section 5 on page 2 I believe that the prior amendment there was an amount of \$60,000.00 that EDP would be paying the county after this is executed and that was to be used on roads that we weren't a part of the upgrade plan. Your noticed in this amendment we have actually increased that to \$80,000.00. A bit of good will and really to just make sure with costs going up that EDP is providing the county with all of the funds that could possibly be necessary to take care of those repairs.

Mike said so it's not more roads?



Zach said no, just more money. It could be more roads if you wanted it to be. How ever you choose to spend it. Chris did want to mention roads within the Huntsville area, I think they fell outside of the jurisdiction of what the repair and upgrade plan covered. They weren't roads directly within the project but he wanted me to mention that those roads should be maybe considered. Again, just wanted to highlight that as an example of something our business and people in our business, Chris and myself try to take care of the community anyway possible. Chris and I are both Hoosiers and so it's important that we take care of the community. If we could the first order of business is the RUA amendment, if you have any questions or concerns, if not we'd like to execute that today.

Mike asked Mike Haffner are you okay with the seven-day inspection?

Mike Haffner said it's tight but I can make it work.

Mike asked you don't know why its seven days, that seems short?

Zach said I'm not exactly sure, I don't know what it was before. If there was even a clause about inspections in there or if this was just put in to put some sort of time frame on it. I don't know that it was shortened.

Mike Haffner said the Highway Department works four days a week, so seven working days for me is a little different.

Zach said it does specify seven.

Mike said business days. That would be Monday through Friday and then Monday and Tuesday.

Mike Haffner said I can make that work.

Gary said what about changing it to seven Highway working days, that gives them another day.

Meeks said can you get it done?

Mike Haffner said yes, I can get it done. If I have to work on a Friday and or Saturday to do it, I will get it done.

Zach said we are two weeks out from totally clarifying that position.

Mike Haffner said you already have several roads done, so I can inspect them now and then go back.

Tom made a motion to approve the first amendment of the agreement regarding county roads and drains between Riverstart Solar Farm and Randolph County. Gary seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Zach said that is all the information I have on the roads today. I do have some more to talk about. Just a quick kind of public notice and invite to the community members who are in the audience, the Commissioner's as well, EDP and Riverstart will be hosting an open house this coming Saturday at the Modoc diner from 3 to 6 and from the EDPR team there will be development, construction, operations, folks from the environmental team and beyond. There will be five \$100 gift cards to Shore's Gas station, hot food, coffee, hot chocolate and this again just an open house for the community to come and ask questions. It is more specifically about solar projects that are in the area that we hope to develop in the future and that kind of thing. I am inviting the Commissioner's and the community members here.

Mike asked that is December 11<sup>th</sup>?

Zach said yes, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 3 to 6 at the Modoc Diner. I believe that covers Riverstart, roads and solar. I do have a few things on Headwater's Windfarm to talk about. I have the EDA between EDP and Headwater's windfarm.

Mike asked this is just changing the schedule?

Zach said yes. It does just have one signature line, I would ask, I think every other document we've had has the full board.

Mike said this is just a change in the schedule.

Zach said yes, the dollar figures remain the same, we are going to push back the first year and the thereafter. Ten years and ten amounts of money.

Mike said Meeks shared this with us, we've all seen it.

Gary made a motion to approve the first amendment to the economic development agreement and authorize Mike to sign on behalf of the county. Tom seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Zach said last is Headwater's I farm, EDPR and Randolph Counties Fiber optic lease, Tom has been asking me for this for a while. The front page is a map of fiber optic easement and work that was part of the Headwater's II windfarm project to help hopefully to get broadband internet to the community here in Randolph County, this is just a status update, parcels, conduit easements have been signed and agreed upon are with the county. There are two yellow's number 15 & 26 that are not signed but are not no's so to speak, the reds up to this point are easements, property owners that have expressed an interest not to agree to the easement. This was a project that, I think is really great that EDPR would exhaust our efforts to help the county in any way with this project. I think we've done a really good job this far, in short 43 or 46 I believe there are some opportunity there but that land owner and EDP has a good relationship with them. That could probably change, we may have some opportunity to continue conversation on those and then as well as numbers 9, 10, 12 and 20 although those are reds, I think the questions or concerns from those property owners can be addressed with some more conversation and we're happy to be involved. A few other reds I think are a little out of EDP's



domain at this point. I think they stand a harder line on where they stand. So, Tom I'm happy to with any of the Commissioner's on what more we can do to help the county bring this project to a completion and see all those boxes green. I just wanted to give this as an update and show you where we're at. I do have two fiber optic easement agreements that have been signed. I believe we hand these off to the county and then we get a copy of those afterwards. That's the fiber update you been looking for. Let me know what more we can do. For two of the property owners I think we have an avenue of communication, we could probably have a day with your help.

Tom said probably the best thing you could probably do now is fix tv reception down there.

Zach said yes, that is a hot topic within the community, I know we are fielding lots of calls and that is definitely under way. We had 24 as of the last time I looked, complaints from the community for tv, radio interference. Something that was communicated up front as a potential, we perform studies to hopefully identify areas that could potentially receive or have interference do to turbines and radio waves there. In short, we are addressing each of those complaints and they are being taken care of.

Tom made a motion to approve the fiber optic lease with WAJ LLC as presented. Gary seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Gary asked what is the progress as far as the completion of the solar?

Zach said Riverstart Solar is near completion. We're tying up all the loose ends, I don't have the precise for your but it should be commissioned before the end of the year. Obviously paving is wrapping up over the next few weeks.

Gary said are you turning those units on as they are completed or do you wait until the whole field is complete?

Zach said similar to the windfarm are turned on in circuits. I believe the last number I saw was just before the Thanksgiving holiday we were at 70%. The last 30% should wrap up quickly and again should be turned on by the end of the year.

#### **Bonnie Hobbs, Susan Robinson– Lynn Library roof**

Susan said I am Susan Robinson, Director of the Washington Township Public Library in Lynn, we serve Union Township, Greensfork Township and Washington Township. We're an Evergreen member which means they can all get cards and go anywhere in Indiana. Our big problem is our roof has failed dramatically. I contacted insurance, they came up and said it's an 80-year-old roof, it cannot be repaired anymore. They sent a structural engineer, he said it's failed. We contacted people to come and we went with Stormy Ridge, now the library has come up with \$12,565.00 to repair ½ of the roof. It had to be done, you couldn't wait any longer. Of course, with Covid they are telling us March. We signed the contract and paid them part of the money. But we need the rest of the roof fixed. We have no more money to spare. The estimate on the rest of the roof was \$13,085.76. Then we've got the inside because the roof has failed, when it rains the roof is tar, the tar has leaked down inside. So, our library is streaked with tar

and that in turn has damaged the carpets. I haven't got estimates for the carpets and the walls because I've called and called and you can't get anyone that wants to work. I'm asking for the \$13,085.76 if possible to repair the rest of the roof. The library will be 80 years old this summer.

Mike asked what kind of roof are you going to put on?

Susan said I went with Stormy Ridge because they are the only one that said they would remove the old roof down to the studs and put on a new standing seam and run it up. There is an edge around the roof and they will seal it all good. I am confident in them and I paid part of the money for that.

Mike asked how much did you pay?

Susan said I had to pay a down payment of \$3,141.00.

Mike said but you have \$12,565.00?

Susan said yes, I do have that.

Mike said so your total project is going to be a little less than \$26,000.00?

Susan said right, not counting the inside. I been trying for grants, we are a Goodrich Library but they don't do structural, so the grants don't do structural that I've found. I've reached out to everybody. I got a grant for \$16,000.00 for Covid related items only, they don't do structural and that is a reimbursable so that's tied up what little money I have left because you have to pay for it and then they will reimburse it. That goes until July of 2022. We're desperate.

Tom asked who owns the building?

Susan said the library.

Tom said it's not owned by the City?

Susan said no, we went over that and we finely determined that the library owns the building, the city owns the land. It was built by Governor Goodrich and Cora Goodrich and the WPA in 1942. But we offer a good service to the community and it is a landmark building.

Tom asked is it a historic building?

Susan said it should be but we haven't got it declared yet.

Tom said you might think about that because that would probably limit the roof you could put on there and probably triple the cost.

Susan said we did get a grant for the handicap ramp and it was a federal grant.



Gary said it has been a good structure.

Mike asked how many patrons do you have?

Susan said probably about 1000 in Washington Township, probably 500 in Greensfork and probably about 400 in Union Township.

Meeks asked do you have a tax rate?

Susan said yes, but I couldn't tell you what it is right off hand.

Mike said so 1400 patrons come from windfarm areas. Do we have a comment from the audience, I seen a hand out there?

Bonnie Cox said my name is Bonnie Cox, I'm the president of the Lynn Preservation Society and in the basement of the library are housed irreplaceable artifacts from the town's history. Another thing I would like to also mention is the town of Lynn over the years has really struggled. That's an understatement actually, if you drive through the town. I feel like and I know a lot of other people in the town feel like the Lynn Library represents a nice piece of architecture that people see when they first drive through our town. It looks nice, its been kept up nice and it's important to keep the building looking good. We don't have a lot there right now and the library is used. We have an older demographic there that maybe they couldn't read a book if they didn't have access to this library. She works with the kids at the school also and we have Evergreen which means you can basically have a book from another state shipped here. This is something I feel as a community we need to come together and try to get this building done.

Tom said Greensfork 800 patrons have all visited the library the last year.

Susan said they have to come in to get a card from me and then they can go to any library, its Evergreen and it's all free. They can get a book from anywhere and take it back anywhere, of course that's fees I have to pay to Info Express and Evergreen. A lot of our money goes, we had to go to online bookkeeping and that's expensive. Evergreen fees are expensive, a lot of the stuff is not related to reading.

Ceann Bales of Randolph County United, I just wanted to support Susan and Bonnie in what they are talking about. Susan has reached out to me a couple of times about funding, she also met with Greg Beumer to try and see if there were any grants available and hitting a brick wall so to speak. I did reach out to Dayne Starbuck, spoke to him about the Winchester Foundation, as Susan said they don't support that kind of brick and mortar concept and Dayne is working on maybe some private donors that he thinks might want to support it through the family and what not. I just wanted you to know that they really have, this is kind of the last resort to really get the roof, we are looking at maybe some other funding options to get that interior all for the 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. Just want to support them in their efforts and really trying to exhaust all resources before coming to you today.

Max said I have a comment as well, I have my Evergreen card from Lynn and I want to say those ladies in the library are delightful, I have been there two or three times and I know that community through the Headwater's I windfarm has contributed a great deal to the funds and I for one as a Council member could see us doing that.

Mike said I think that is what we ought to do.

Tom said I think it would be prudent, but you should own the land, I think you should get that cleaned up, the library is a self-supporting entity, you should own the property that your building is on. That could just complicate things probably for grants and other things. I just thin the city should donate that land.

Gary made a motion to assist the Washington Township Library. When are they going to try and do this?

Susan said they said if I needed an emergency repair he could come tarp part of it. But March, April, May and of course the second estimate for the other part, I didn't sign a contract for, so I'm hoping he holds to this price of \$13,085.76. I like their work and I think standing seam is the way to go.

Tom asked is there a guarantee with that?

Susan said yes, 50 years.

Mike asked were you going to make a motion.

Gary said yes, I will make the motion to take \$13,086.00 out of EDIT. Tom seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

#### **Other Business:**

#### **County Council**

Dave Lenkensdofer said we are going to have to sit down here shortly and develop an ARPA plan as the Council and Commissioner's.

Mike said we need to do that, maybe we can figure that out tomorrow.

#### **Bob McCoy, Winchester Mayor – Lack of parking on the square**

Bob said the discussion keeps coming up about lack of parking on the square. I just wanted to throw that out there to you guys. Lots of finger pointing on where certain people can park and certain employees. I really don't know where it's going. I don't like the idea of paid parking on the square but just a heads up like I said I don't know where the conversation will go but we continue to have it.

Gary asked are there any parking lots available near the square?

Mike said there is a paid parking.



Gary said I know there's a paid parking but other than that.

Mike said there is two parking lots that Old National and First Merchants bank own.

Meeks said the Congregational Christian Church has a parking lot. The City owns the parking lot right behind the City Building, right?

Bob said right, it's normally full. I pulled up a book from 1999 and at that time they said we were lacking about 55 spaces and again, its been an ongoing thing for many years and some of the people I've talked to said when you have a business up town and your there all day, it might be a good idea to park down the block. It's been brought up that courthouse employees possibly parking down the block, but like I said I don't know where the conversation is going. I just wanted to make you guys aware of it.

Mike said I've had conversations with citizens that and I stand, up until last Tuesday, I've not had an issue with finding parking around the square at any time during the day. Last Tuesday I came to Kiwanis and that was the first time that I could not park around the square.

Bob said I think it is concentrated on that side anyway where everybody is parking.

Mike said the state took out a few on this side. I think it is a concern and I think it is going to vary depending upon the traffic that downtown business's have. We have a new restaurant downtown that is taking off well. I think as trends go, it will probably slow somewhat but it won't slow a lot so there will be less parking. I think when Trudy had Everett's across the street, parking was harder to get and I'm sure after it was gone parking was easier to get. I have heard these two parking lots over here might be something the city wants to get a hold of.

Bob said I think we have somebody looking into that. I think one of them, they are not wanting to sell and the other one I'm not sure of. It is an option to park down the street if you can, if you are able.

Gary asked are those lots that you are talking about, are they available to the general public or are they just off limits.

Mike said I don't think anybody knows what they are. It doesn't say private parking and it doesn't say pay a fee.

Gary asked Max how the new paving is.

Max said delightful. I spoke with Scott Fisher yesterday and he indicated that the two mile stretch around 1200, they decided to postpone it until next year. Everything else looks great. We appreciate it.

Gary said I drove 90% of them Monday and they were nice compared to what they were.

Tom said the county got almost \$400,000.00 more than we contacted for.

**Art Moystner, Randolph County Sheriff**

**Cooling unit for radio equipment room (J&K's opinion)**

Art said some good news, our Axon body camera's came in Friday afternoon, we will spend this week getting those put into the system like they need to be and getting those passed out to everyone.

Mike asked what do you do with the old ones?

Art said I think we only had three or four that were actually operable and I will probably offer, if there are any towns that are wanting those but with the aging equipment, I don't know that there is much you can do with those. The reason I am on the agenda today was with regard to the air conditioning or cooling in the server rooms. I spoke to J&K this past week, they came in and they are recommending that we cool that room. The same day that they told me that the air conditioner in the other room that we fixed about 2 ½ months ago is out again. I've contacted Salyer Taylor, their supposed to be here this week to look at that, I'm going to ask them to quote because they said the last quote was over 30 days, so they have to requote anyway but I am going to ask them to quote what it is going to take to fix that, whether they think it should be fixed, I believe that unit is 14 years old but they are going to quote me to put a new one down to fix the old one and then potentially even put a bigger unit on the roof that would be able to take care of both rooms since their side by side. I am going to try and get all that information to you guys at your next meeting and it will probably be Chief Hendrickson that brings that information.

Mike said I thought J&K's email gave an indication about both rooms as well.

Chris said it did but since they were splitting the unit.

Art said that is their recommendation.

Gary said in visiting the different towers this week I talked to J&K rep that I know and he said that was a little bit of an oversight on their part to start with but he said the advantages were the new equipment will produce less heat so that will help but he still recommends we put a cooling system in there.

Chris said that room, you are going to have probably three to four racks that will come out of there and only one rack is going back in.

Gary said he still recommends, I ask him why they didn't suggest that earlier and he said it was just an oversight, it did need it.

Art said we are using rooms that were built 30 years ago that at that point in time we didn't have near the technical equipment that we have now.

Mike said we will wait until our next meeting to make a decision on that.



Art said I am also going to ask for some guidance from the Commissioner's. There was a situation in May with the range and mowing and I talked to Jake and it's been long enough that I don't know who else I talked to or informed but we went out for a qualification and the guys were qualifying in waste deep grass. I contacted Jake and apparently there was some mix up with the person that the Commissioner's had contracted and it was getting mowed so he stopped going out to mow. It had stopped getting mowed at the range but some of the other area was still getting mowed. I contacted Andy Fahl who does the 4-H fairgrounds anyway and asked him if he would be able to do that. He's done some for the summer for us for \$25.00 each time he's come out. The clarification I'm looking for is I've received a bill from him for the summer which is \$275.00 and the Auditor's office isn't sure whether to take that out of your line that was originally set up for that, not sure we can take it out of my building maintenance line or not. It all ends up being the same money just different lines. I'm looking for guidance from you guys, I know what you'd contracted hasn't been paid throughout the summer because it wasn't done.

Mike asked who was mowing it for us, was that Smiley?

Art said I think it was Smiley.

Mike asked is he mowing anything else out there?

Art said I don't believe so, I think that the people at the infirmary has started mowing and then they had gone out and mowed the range and there was, I don't know exactly what happened but they stated that they were no longer going to mow the range for us.

Mike said if Burke is not mowing anything at all for us out there anymore, I wouldn't know why since Andy is at the Extension office, why we wouldn't continue with Andy and I wouldn't know why we wouldn't go ahead and pay the \$275.00 he's earned this year.

Art said I will go ahead and get that turned in to the Auditor's office. The other thing Chris came up with me for is my understanding is the south tower is done, they are working on the central and north tower and we just wanted to remind the Commissioner's that if they get them done we will have a nice system with no radios. That's something that we probably should start talking about soon.

Mike asked what license do we have on that south tower?

Chris said we have the 700, 800-megahertz license currently. J&K and Pyramid from what I understand from their email are working with each other to get the microwave taken care of.

Mike said that's what equipment is on there. So, at this point even if we had radio's we've got a license but don't have the equipment for it and we have equipment that don't have a license for it. So, you probably should get some radio quotes to see what all that is going to cost.

Chris said we provided you with the radio quotes for the new 700-megahertz radio's that we're wanting.

Mike asked when was that?

Chris said it has been two or three months ago when we were talking about employee salaries. It was for Sheriff's department, my department, Coroner's office, Health department.

Mike asked you don't recall what month that was?

Chris said probably June or July.

Art said I was thinking it was \$125 or \$130 thousand. I agree with you Mike, you're not certain of when to do it but I know with the shipping issues that they been having, my fear is if we don't move fast enough then we are setting and waiting.

Mike said I found it, I'm counting \$125,000.00. Several different departments. I quickly added that up in my head. So, these would tune into either, to respond to either tower equipment?

Chris said yes, the primary would be the 700-megahertz and then they can also operate off a different wave if we would have to. The other system, they sent out letters and I've got to send out to all the departments for the cities and towns that they're no longer going to issue identification numbers for radios that do not have the TDMA equipment inside the radio. The TDMA allows the splitting of the radio frequency so it gives us more channels and ability to talk, the old ones only allow one to talk at a time.

Mike said as Art said it's not going to do us any good to have this new system without these radios.

Tom asked where are we going to get the money?

Mike said that's the question.

Tom said when we talked about this, we weren't talking about putting radio's, we didn't figure that in the price of everything, the old radios were supposedly going to work.

Chris said and they will work up until we switch and actually cover 700 megahertz but the issue is they are all old, starting to not be fixable anymore.

Mike said why don't we take this under consideration and maybe in two weeks we'll have a plan of how we're going to pay for these. Maybe we'll know a little more about the time line of the central and north towers as well.

Chris said hopefully they will get those done this week. That was my understanding, they should have those done.

Mike said we can share this with Council tomorrow as well and see where that takes us.

**Chris Shaneyfelt - Mitigation Plan project**



Chris asked did you receive the document for the mitigation plan?

Mike said yes, and your recommending approval of that and it's about \$18,000.

Chris said yes, just under \$19,000.00 and our grant was for \$19 thousand and some change.

Mike said that is what that grant is for?

Chris said yes and they are the only one that replied back to me when I was requesting quotes or proposals. We've worked with them before at the district level. They've written a cascading event plan for us and it did work.

Mike said we need to approve this proposal from Vantage Point Consultant.

Gary made a motion to take Chris's recommendation and move forward with this grant approval and Mike Wickersham sign on behalf of the Commissioner's. Tom seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Chris said the only other thing I have, we still have a lot of claims that are open for MPX and Pyramid. I don't particularly care about those but there is one that is for Rex Collins Electric, they are the ones that did all of our electrical work. They did their work without any issues and we have had no complaints with them, technically they are not tied to the tower and the ongoing issues that we have MPX and Pyramid and so I would ask if we could go ahead and pay them.

Gary said the only thing we are holding on them is retainage and the retainage to me is, once the units are up and going and there's no issues then we pay the retainage. Because of the issue of not having them operable, we don't know whether what they've done is right or not at the present time.

Chris said on the electric side?

Gary said yes.

Mike said it is just retainage.

Gary said we have paid them everything except the retainage.

Mike said we don't have any issues with their work at this point in time either.

Chris said that's what I wanted to make sure because they have done good work for us and they did some stuff that was above what was in anything we asked for.

Gary said if the towers were up and running and everything was done, they would have been paid.

Mike said even if we had some positive response from Pyramid and MPX regarding these claims it might be helpful to pay other claims.

Chris said I don't know how many times I have told them it would be nice if they showed up to a meeting.

Mike said we appreciate you guys here today and appreciate what you do for us.

Chris said our Covid numbers are bouncing back up again, we have several Health Department people sick.

Art said I would ask you and the Council to make sure you have your cell phones, with the issues over the last two weeks, Thanksgiving with some of the staffing and covering we may have to go to the B & C Team for jail coverage because we've had people working the jail that haven't been back in the jail for a long time.

Mike asked what is the B & C team?

Art said that would be the administration of potentially other elected officials if we get that deep into the hole.

Tom asked what does that stand for?

Art said the A team works normally, you go to the B&C team when you get to many openings which we've had a few.

Chris said Patty and I were working this weekend, both shifts.

**Regular Claims \$1,581,637.34**

Mike said I will say that a large amount of these claims come from the Community Crossing's three projects.

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

**Payroll Claims \$ 225,559.96**

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

**Promise Indian Claim \$25,000.00**

Mike said this is an EDIT commitment.

Gary made a motion to approve the Promise Indiana claim as presented. Tom seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

**Randolph County United \$18,467.63**



Mike said this is for our monthly Randolph County United draw.

Gary made a motion to approve this claim as presented. Tom seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

**Randolph County United Tourism \$2,365.63**

Gary made a motion to approve this claim as presented. Tom seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

**Group Insurance claim \$100,000.00**

Angela said we are taking this from circuit breaker.

Gary made a motion to approve this claim as presented. Tom seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

**SJCA Claim \$10,071.00**

Mike said this is for bridge work on 162, 174 and 175. These are the ones we approved for Community Crossings reconstruction of bridge decks near Windsor.

Tom made a motion to approve the SJCA claim. Gary seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

**Barnes & Thornburg \$2,500.00**

Mike said this is for our monthly American Rescue Act Funding retainer for their advice and council on how to spend that money.

Gary made a motion to approve this claim as presented. Tom seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

**MPX Claim \$27,000.00**

**MPX Claim \$9,628.15**

**Pyramid Claim \$4,000.00**

**Pyramid Claim \$233.28**

**Pyramid Claim \$2,280.00**

**Pyramid Claim \$8,000.00**

**Rex Collins Electric claim \$11,122.00**

**MPX Change Order 03C-02**

Mike asked do we want to take action on any of these claims this morning?

Gary made a motion to continue to table them. Tom seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

**BZA Appointment**

Mike said John Peacock who has served the BZA for the last several years is up for reappointment and I talked to John and he is willing to serve another 4 years.

Tom made a motion to reappoint John Peacock to the BZA board. Gary seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

### **Airport Lights and Flights Fundraiser**

Mike said the next item is a not for profit group Paws Animal Rescue and Shelter Incorporated from Union City would like to use our airport for the Lights and Flights Fundraiser. This will be on Friday December 10<sup>th</sup> from 5 pm until 12:00 am and Saturday December 11<sup>th</sup> for the same time period. Saturday is a backup date in the event they cannot fly on Friday. Sunday December 12<sup>th</sup> is a backup day if there is inclement weather on either of the other two days. They have filled out our facility use agreement and have supplied us with a certificate of liability insurance and are requesting the use of our airport.

Tom asked does this come with a recommendation of the Airport Board?

Mike said I've not gotten anything that recommends it. Has the Airport Board discussed this?

Bill Richmond said yes, at their last meeting.

Mike asked did you vote on it?

Bill said yes, I'm pretty sure we did.

Mike asked was there a consensus that we wanted to do this again?

Bill said yes.

Gary said I will take the recommendation and move approval. Tom seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

### **SRI – Commissioner's Certificate sale agreement**

Mike said this is an agreement between SRI who does have Commissioner tax sales and they charge us 15% of all amounts collected which we've entered this in the past. This is an in-person sale. Are there any questions or comments about the agreement with SRI doing our certificate sale this year?

Gary made a motion to continue with them and approve the agreement. Tom seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

### **Assignment of farm lease**

Mike said Mrs. Brumfield is the representative of the estate of Jacob Douglas Brumfield and she is assigning our farm lease that Doug Brumfield currently leased to Ben Brumfield. We need to sign a consent to assignment if we want to do that.

Tom made a motion to approve the assignment of the farm lease as presented. Gary seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.



**Extension Contractual Agreement**

Mike said the next item is the 4-H Extension contractual agreement. It is a contractual agreement between Purdue University and Randolph County. It has been electronically signed by the Purdue Cooperative Extension office.

Tom asked do you remember what last year's contract was?

Meeks said they tell us what it is going to be.

Mike said this year's contract is for \$113,350.00. I probably have it here if you want to know.

Tom said I just wondered how much of an increase it was. I am assuming they did this state wide.

Mike asked do we want to enter this contract?

Tom said yes.

Gary made a motion to approve the contract as presented and allow Mike Wickersham to sign on behalf of the Commissioners. Tom seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

**Additional Appropriations:**

**General - Employee Separation** \$21,000.00

Gary made a motion to approve the additional appropriation for employee separation as presented. Tom seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

**General – Comp/Video Equipment** \$30,662.07

**Comp/Video Equipment** \$7038.28

Gary made a motion to approve this additional appropriation as presented. Tom seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

**Cum Bridge – Bridge 114** \$54,300.00

Mike said this is for the historic analysis that we discussed at our last meeting. We agreed to do that so we need to approve the additional appropriation.

Tom made a motion to approve the additional appropriation as presented. Gary seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

**Highway – Hwy Engineer Contract** \$5,000.00

Gary made a motion to approve the additional appropriation of \$5,000.00 for the Highway Engineer's contract. Tom seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

**Ridgeville Public Library – Personal Svcs.** \$3,200.00

Gary made a motion to approve this additional appropriation. Tom seconded. All aye voted. Motion carried.

**Tom Chalfant- Old Hwy Barn invoice, EMS Directors position**

Tom said I have a bill from Wallace Heating and Cooling from the old Highway barn, there was a problem with the heating system, it was \$544.00, they did some diagnostics, they said it needs additional work. The highway used mostly wood to heat and this fella uses natural gas.

Anyway, it's running now but he said it needs some additional flu work, it wasn't installed properly. I need to check into that but we need to pay this bill. I would assume it would come out of the revenue from the rent.

Laura said we have a maintenance line. We will have to do a claim and it will be presented at your next meeting.

Tom said who is going to Council tomorrow, we need to try and find a replacement for Diane. Duane is interested at a higher salary.

Mike said the question becomes, we had 16 applicants for that position. Do we want to consider any of those applicants and talk to them and if we do, can we interview them?

Meeks said you can interview them in a meeting.

Mike said we can't interview them in an executive session. I guess the question is executive session or not do we want to consider interviewing any of these candidates, including our acting EMS Director. Duane has done and does a great job for us. I just don't know, I've not talked to him about what he wants as far as salary and how much of an increase he would want as far as salary but it puts the county in a difficult situation if we bump one director's salary and we don't bump other director's salaries.

Tom said I don't either but he would provide a lot of continuity. It would be very simple to move him into that position.

Mike said yes, it would be an easy transition that's for sure.

Tom said with all the issues we've got going on with personnel, machinery and everything. I think that's the best thing for us to do.

Meeks said the executive session can be used to receive information about perspective employees.

Mike said so we could. I guess not knowing what the outcome of the Council meeting will be tomorrow, I'm wondering if we shouldn't establish an executive session early next week to interview perspective employees for the position.

Tom said some of them are a long way off.

Mike said I've gone through the list and I've ranked them 1 through 16 and in my opinion, I've ranked them 1 to 16 and I could share that with Laura and Laura could share that with you guys.



You could rank them and we could come to some mutual understanding that we would interview maybe the top three. I'm just throwing out idea's here.

Gary said I wouldn't object to that.

Mike said I'm not saying we have to, if Council is in agreement with moving ahead with our assistant deputy now then that would be an easy transition and probably the best transition for the county. I think we ought to be prepared, we've already had a couple candidates call about what we're doing.

Gary said I think that would be our best option now, to move forward with an executive session and interview.

Mike said do you want to do it at 9:00 am next Monday?

Laura said the 13<sup>th</sup>?

Mike said to interview prospective employees for the Emergency Medical Services Director's position.

Gary said I can't Monday or Tuesday, we're packing baskets all day.

Mike asked do you want to do Wednesday?

Gary said I can do the 15<sup>th</sup>.

Mike said Wednesday December 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am.

Tom said that is fine.

Meeks said I will send you the IC code, Laura so you can get it posted.

Mike said if we could, of the 16 that we've received, pick five and then maybe there's three of them that we all agree on, see where that takes us. If we all pick five then we may have 15 and I don't really want to interview 15 people. Then send those to Laura and we will let her tabulate those. Then I will talk to Council about it tomorrow.

#### **Gary Girton – Communication Tower issues**

Gary said if you look at the Pyramid agreement we have here dated 7/31. It shows their billing. On the original contract which you have a copy of, on the page where it's talking about article 8 compensation. That shows what they were to bill us originally, \$55,000 and \$20,000, \$135,000 and \$80,000. Then on the addendum we sent them was for the four broadband towers and that shows that they upped the fee from \$20,000 to \$25,000.00. Then design and engineering was \$35,000. According to their paperwork we still owe them \$12,000.00. According to my paperwork they owe us roughly \$28,000.00 because they increased \$5,000.00 and they increased

\$35,000. They're showing on the paperwork that has their last bill, it's showing the amount of work completed, they've got \$250,000.00 and it's actually \$322,000.00 if you figure that.

Mike said the RFP process, \$55,000 and \$55,000 didn't change, the FCC process went from \$20,000 to \$25,000.00. The sites building review went from \$135,000 to \$170,000.00. On site representation stayed at \$80,000.00.

Meeks said that is \$330,000.00 total.

Mike said I don't understand where we've overpaid them.

Gary said we've paid them \$5,000.00 more when they bumped that from \$20,000 to \$25,000.00. So, there is \$5,000 we paid them for broadband that they didn't do.

Mike said okay, they've not done that and they've not done the \$35,000.00. So that's \$40,000.00.

Meeks said have they filed the applications, we're just waiting for it.

Mike said on the broadband towers we've not filed any application. We took that project away from them.

Gary said they never did any of that.

Mike said we've paid them \$318,000.00 have we not? If we've paid what the amount previously billed was.

Gary said right. The way I figure it, if you subtract the \$12,000.00 that they say we owe them presently from the \$40,000.00 then there's \$28,000.00 we've over paid them according to my calculations.

Mike said I tend to agree with that. What do you want to do, Gary?

Gary said I just wanted to bring it to your attention that it needs corrected.

Mike said correcting it is to have them pay us \$28,000.00.

Gary said we still got the \$27,000.00 for rebar.

Tom said between MPX and Pyramid, we owe them \$48,800.00. That's what we've been holding up for six months and I think he is probably going to walk away.

Mike said before we pay them, is that retainage?



Tom said it's just all those bills added up, there's MPX claims for \$36 and then about \$12 or \$13 thousand for Pyramid. But the \$12,000 for pyramid is on top of the \$28,000 that they owe us now.

Gary said the \$12,000 would come off of the \$40.

Laura said we over paid them \$40 if you take the \$12 off it would be \$28,000.00.

Mike said what I'm saying is if we don't pay them the \$12,000.00 they still owe us \$28,000.00 and we are not going to get it unless we ask for it. If we ask for it, they will probably stop working for us, if he works for us at all now.

Gary said he hasn't done anything for a good while. We're getting nowhere on the licensing. They should have been on top of that in September.

Mike said do you want to have Meeks prepare a demand letter?

Gary said I think we've got to correct these issues. I don't know what's the best way to go about it.

Tom said I heard some other county was suing him.

Gary said I was talking to the J&K people this week at different times at the different towers. They can get all this equipment up and get it hooked up. Hopefully if things go right they'll be able to position all their equipment on the towers as far as controlling it.

Tom said the towers are all fixed, the bolts that we saw?

Gary said no, that's a different issue. I'll give you an email I got this week from that. Once they get everything in line, they have a license to turn that on and operate it and get all the bugs worked out and then they have to shut it down immediately.

Mike said because we have the wrong equipment.

Gary said we have the right equipment, what was supposed to be up there. But we don't have any license period.

Mike said I thought we had the 700-megahertz license?

Gary said that is not affected by this, so I'm told.

Mike said I thought we had to put equipment on the tower that would work with the 700 licenses, buy new equipment, if we don't get the 4.8-megahertz license.

Gary said that will have to be changed if we don't get the megahertz but that's to get the towers to communicate together back and forth, it's the microwave. I asked them how much that would

cost and they didn't know. But they have put up similar equipment in Michigan that would do what were asking it to do but they didn't know what the cost of that would be. That's another issue too.

Mike asked what do we want to do about this?

Tom asked are things progressing on the license? How close are we to having this completed and tested?

Gary said they can test it on what we have.

Mike said once they finish them.

Gary said once they finish them if the weather is right, the climbers will have all their work done by Thursday and J&K will finish up all their work within up to two weeks and at the end of that time they should have them tested and then they will have to shut them down.

Tom asked do you know how much we owe J&K?

Gary said it's a million and something.

Tom asked is that the only other bill we have on this project?

Gary said yes, other than the ones we're holding.

Mike said we are not getting anywhere by just tabling these claims, so I guess I'd recommend that we request a demand letter, write a demand letter to Pyramid say we want our \$28,000.00 back. I don't know what else to do. I don't hear any other suggestions.

Meeks asked do you want to wait and make sure the towers are repaired and what that cost is going to be?

Gary said they haven't been repaired.

Mike said that wouldn't be Pyramids responsibility. My point is it puts them on notice that we've overpaid them.

Laura asked does that overpayment include the other \$27,000.00 that we paid for the rebar?

Gary said no, we paid the \$27,000 for rebar which we didn't get back and they can't show us where it's at.

Mike said who's they?

Gary said Pyramid, their responsible.



Mike said that's not MPX?

Gary said MPX is involved.

Laura said it was paid to MPX.

Gary said Pyramid is also responsible for seeing that, that is done. They are the one's that have been billing us.

Mike said I don't have any problem waiting to see if the towers communicate with each other.

Gary said I think we need to get Terry Burnworth and those guys back down here and find out what we're doing with the licensing. I've tried to email them.

Mike said we don't have congressional subpoena power, that's easier said than done.

Gary said I understand that.

Mike said I don't know how we're going to get them here. Other than demand they owe us money. I know tabling their claims is not getting any response from them.

Gary said you can read two or three of the emails that I got on Friday, one is from Todd Durnil which talked about primarily the north tower, which has a problem with water and Ed and I went up there again Friday, he's been there different times. I've been up there two or three times and that's the first time I've been up there since they put the generator in and how much lower is then generator than the water level ED?

Ed said I'm going to say the pad is almost two foot below the pedestal they put the shack on.

Gary said I was going to say two feet.

Mike asked is it a water proof generator?

Ed said no.

Gary said the J&K guys said they've been up there doing some work when the water was up to the metal on it, because the fuel tank is on the bottom, he's been out there when the water was up on the base of the engine shrouding. I just don't understand who is overseeing this work and we're paying them \$80,000.00 for it and we've got things like that. According to these emails, the way I read the email, all the issues with the towers have basically been taken care of. We don't have any check list or anything that they've checked off the things that Reece Tower inspection people noted. We just get a statement that they are all completed.

Mike said in an email from Gary Bates.

Gary said right.

Mike said I'm sure they haven't realigned the towers nor do we have anybody telling us what's acceptable and what's not.

Ed asked can I make it just a little worse?

Mike said sure.

Ed said after we went and visited the other day, I told you I was going to do some review, there's approximately 18 acres of drainage through that area on the north tower. One thing we discussed a little bit between us was the possibility of them water proofing the bottom couple foot of the legs on the tower so you could possible landscape that water away. A tile drains to get the water away from the site is by far the better choice. It's going to take anywhere from 800 to 1000 feet to get anywhere, it's not the end of the world, it's not something they really should've figured out early but it's where we're at.

Mike said we ultimately approved that tower to go there and we ultimately approved it knowing there would be drainage issues. The north tower we said it was going to be a low area but they indicated they would take care of that and they have not.

Gary said they tested it and the clay is there to structurally hold the tower, that's not an issue. To me if I was doing it, I would have put the pillars another two foot higher on the tower and raised it up. I think they could have engineered it to do that and got the feet of the tower out. Right now, they're maybe even with the back of a turbine or the generator?

Ed said they are below the generator.

Gary said so they're down below the surface of the ground where the bolts are at the top of the concrete.

Ed said if they had put the tower up there where they put the utility shack, it would be a matter of bringing some fill in and dressing it up.

Gary said that is all they would've had to done, in my opinion.

Ed said I agree with you.

Gary said the same with the generator, they could have put the generator up to the same height. The generator's got to be moved, there is no question about that.

Tom asked is there a buried cable to it?

Gary said yes. The control unit is probably even with the top of the generator. Anyway, it comes back to what are we going to do about these issues. I guess the biggest thing is we don't have any licensing.



Mike said that makes a difference in timing. If you make a demand, typically you are going to have somebody stop working for you and then we're back to square one. If they are working for a license which the email says that they are.

Gary said John Shrew tells me that FCC told him the last he talked with them a week ago, with IPSIC has the authority to issue temporary permits that would put this online until the FCC can finally make a determination. John tells me that he has very little communication and ability I guess you would say he doesn't basically know anyone to communicate with at IPSIC to deal with. He said Terry Burnworth does.

Mike then evidently, we need Terry Burnworth to talk to IPSIC. There is probably know reason to make a demand other than maybe we could have Meeks write Terry Burnworth a letter and say we've got an issue with the licensing that's going to cost the county a lot of money, it's our understanding IPSIC can solve this problem, can you help us get that done. Is that fair?

Gary said I think that is probably the best option we have right now.

Mike asked Meeks can you write a letter without being too demanding and forthright.

Meeks said I will send him an email.

Mikes said if we had a license then I would be making more of a demand, because we are going to have to make other demands of somebody. Whether it's MPX, Pyramid or the whole works. Anything else?

Gary said there is one other thing, the ARP money, I was at Saratoga's meeting last week but a couple of the communities have asked if the county could get them all in room together and help them in doing some planning on there program that they need for this.

Mike said we don't have our own plan yet.

Gary said I know that but they are asking for help.

Mike asked help in the way of guidance?

Gary said I think so.

Tom said if the house passes the senate version, we don't need much consultation because 30% of the money is for what ever you want. The way the senate version is, you can use 30% of this money basically no strings attached. It is broad enough that you don't have to have somebody to tell you what hoops to jump through.

Gary said right, but they still have to have a plan. They we're wondering if we could put them all in a room and give them some insight. They just want to know how to put their plan together.

Mike said we could do that after we get our plan put together. We would have an idea of what a plan looks like. We could show them our plan and they could copy our plan.

Gary said if that is what you want to do. They just asked if I would bring that up.

Mike said I wouldn't have much to offer them now as far as a plan. Hopefully we are going to establish when we are going to have a joint meeting and how we are going to go about doing our plan, whether we do it with committee and recommendation to the two boards or whether we do it as a joint group.

#### **Mike Wickersham – Cyber insurance**

Mike said the only thing I have is the issue with cyber insurance and I shared some emails that I got from Jentry regarding the cost and the cost is a little higher than what he had anticipated. We don't have it and it means we are in violation of our agreement with Five Star. I presume we still need it.

Meeks said that is what the contract says.

Mike said Jentry is not here either. We did have one company quote us, it was \$25,000.00 with a pretty substantial deductible. It has a million-dollar limit and a \$50,000.00 deductible, so the cost would be \$75,000.00 plus the cost of doing everything we're required to do on our question and answer list last week. We can not buy it and run the risk and reach out to Five Star and say we don't have it and see what they say to us or we can buy it for \$25,000.00 a year and have coverage of a million dollars. Our recommendation from Jentry was that if it weren't for Five Star we would probably just self-insure ourselves. Do we want to table it and send Five Star and email that asked if we can be excused from that portion of the contract?

Tom asked is he looking at anymore?

Mike said I think that's it. I think he was surprised he got that one. Okay we will send an email, which seems to be working now. It's really tough to download and copy a document from my email to Microsoft work and do it quickly because it has to go through the cloud-based storage.

Adam said one drive.

Mike said it defaults to one drive and then you got to get it out of one drive and get it to your computer. I did find a quicker way to do it but it still takes about 1 ½ minutes.

Adam said it's supposed to open right into your browser.

Mike said it does but it doesn't let me save it to a USB drive. It defaults to one drive.

#### **Citizen Comments**

Ceann Bales, Randolph County United. I just wanted to tell you that the READI grant, the deadline on that, we made our big presentation, all seventeen regions made a presentation in person last week, ours was Friday morning. Our team thinks it went pretty well, now we wait.



We will not know until the end of January, I know they were thinking about the end of this month but I think with checks probably to be distributed in February.

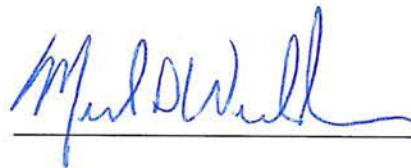
Zach Schoenfeld said I just got an update from Chris, Riverstart I solar the last solar panel was installed this last Saturday. They are 100% commissioned.

**Adjournment**

Gary made a motion to adjourn. Tom seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

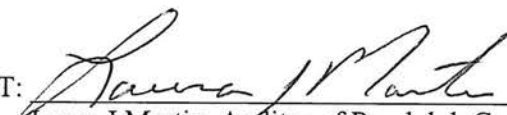
Reviewed and signed this 7 day of March, 2022.

RANDOLPH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

  
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ATTEST:   
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Laura J Martin, Auditor of Randolph County