

Randolph County Commissioners

September 20, 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 Chief Deputy Auditor Angela Lowe, Sheriff Art Moystner and County Attorney Meeks Cockerill.

Michael Wickersham, President presided over the meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mike Haffner – Utility Agreement

Mike Haffner said this is the one on West Martin and Stockyard that we talked about two weeks ago.

Mike said you were going to get some more clarification on that.

Mike Haffner said yes, as far as putting the protection ballards, that's all been added into it.

Mike said your satisfied and recommending approval of this?

Mike Haffner said yes.

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

Mike asked do you have anything else for us?

Mike Haffner said I just want to bring up IT. I've been talking to our IT that we use here at the courthouse just to see what they can do for the Highway Department and they are putting a little plan together to see if we want to possibly hire that same outfit to do our IT at the Highway Department. I don't have any information for you yet, but just letting you know where were at least asking possibly getting on the same system as the Auditor so we can help each other out. Try to keep our IT more internal and be safer and be under the same type systems and same policies that the other department are.

Mike said that makes sense.

Mike Haffner said I am just letting you know that. I will try to get an update on our State Highway 32 closure. Originally it was in the middle of October but I'll try to get an update to see when the states going possibly open that.

Mike asked where is that going to close?

Mike Haffner said it's already closed, east of Lynn on 36. I said 32, sorry. I've got a meeting with Scott Fisher later on today just to go over all the roads that they plan on paving and he let me know that there's a couple individuals that's going to pave some on their own money but we need to be aware and get permission. Tom I'll do the preliminary and then I'll give you all that information and then we can bring that to make sure it's agreeable with you guys. Tom and I are looking into extending some pavement a few more feet on some projects, we'll work the details out there. That's really all I have for you today.

Mike said you sent an email out about Erin and comp time.

Mike Haffner said I was a little confused.

Mike asked do you still need her for 40 hours a week?

Mike Haffner said yes, definitely.

Mike said then my stand point I would say continue to allow her to accrue comp time. When the time comes that she is subject to losing vacation time, I think we will need to deal with it in that respect and hopefully it will be temporary and we can get Council convinced that we need her for 40 hours and she should be paid for 40 hours.

Mike Haffner said on our last conversation, I thought that this was going to be resolved in September.

Mike said I failed to bring it up at the September Council meeting.

Mike Haffner said that is what spurred this because I didn't know how to do payroll if it was going to be taken care of in September.

Mike said I am curious, during your budget hearing did you ask Council if they were willing to support her at 40 hours?

Mike Haffner said I did not bring it up at the budget meetings. I can tell you that the budget I had in there would accommodate the 40 hours but I did not bring it up at that time.

Mike asked is the Community Crossing pavement on the schedule still?

Mike Haffner said they backed off a week or so, so they're telling me the very last week in September to the first week in October. Were really close to there. That's the time frame I was given.

Tom asked is that Milestone?

Mike Haffner said that is actually Brooks. I think they were kind of waiting until Milestone got done with their State Road 1 project, because we've got paving going on over there. Again as a reminder that's 300 East from Union City Pike down to State Road 32, Old 27 from basically State Road 27 into that Y at Base Road, we are going to go right through the Y just a little bit and that's according to the Mayor, that's our transition point and then 900 West from 32 up to 400 North, basically that's the State Road 1 jog and then we will turn West on 400 North and take it to 1000 West. That is the extent of the Community Crossing paving.

Gary asked did they get the fuel system up and running?

Mike Haffner said no, that has been ordered and we probably got another three to four weeks before that even comes in and I'm not going to install another system until that gets installed.

Perry Knox – Bridge 308

Perry said what I have in front of you is a proposal for the replacement of the Short Street bridge which is 308. Our intention is to, the recommendation is to put this through on Community Crossings after design, we do have the three bridges in Windsor which will be going Community Crossings. We have 304, which is the Carl Street bridge and this will be the fifth project earmarked for Community Crossings. This would take, your looking at three years from this point, would be our projected replacement schedule.

Mike asked it would be advisable to have the engineering under contract to develop that, this far in advance?

Perry said yes, for Community Crossings you need to have your engineering completed and have the project shovel ready to submit for funding. If for some reason, of course the County get a \$1 million annual max for Community Crossings, so if for some reason we have these projects that we can't put this through on the second round of next year, because it is already engineered we can hold the project for a future Community Crossings. Basically, it would be on the shelf ready to go.

Mike said we just did 304 and we used bridge funds for that. If were going to do this one, then we are going to have to find other funds to do it with. I will say, I shared this with Council at their last meeting that we were considering doing this to have them both under design contract, so that it would be ready in the event that funds became available for the project beyond Community Crossing, who knows what our Federal Government is going to allow to be spent at any one time.

Perry said not to be off subject but I want to share that at least in the near future plan is that we have one more bridge in Lynn which is 250 and then that would be the only bridge that's on our immediate radar for Community Crossings project and then bridge 114 is that historic truss bridge replacement, that will go Federal aid and I wouldn't come to you if any kind of, we would need to do a historic bridge alternative analysis but that bridge wouldn't be ready to submit for Federal aid until fall of next year. Just a kind of an overview, were not going to come at you with 10 more bridges, just to kind of let you know what the plan is. There are a lot of bridges that were working on now with Mike on as far as recommendations for local funding. But as far

as the Community Crossings and Federal aid projects, were, at least for now starting to whine down.

Mike said if we approve this today then we need to identify a fund that we want to pay for it out of and we have one fund that we have control over and we have one fund that we have partial control over and then Council has control over the rest of the funds. If we want to approve it, we can recommend paying it out of EDIT and go from there or we can recommend paying it out of Wind farm, ask Council to approve that at their next meeting or just recommend it and see how Council wants to pay for it.

Gary asked your projecting the expense of this to be similar to 304?

Perry said the engineering pre-estimate on this is \$100,000.00 more, it's \$800,000.00 on this one. There's a pretty significant utility relocation, Ohio Valley Gas is there and there's a water line underneath the bridge, there is just a more significant utility relocation.

Mike said and those are our expense?

Perry said yes, they are not reimbursable through Community Crossings.

Mike said but they're the Counties expense?

Perry said reimbursable utility, and again I'm not an expert. If it is in an easement then they're not reimbursable, if they're in a right away then they are reimbursable.

Mike said Bob you indicated last meeting that initially your preference would be this bridge over Carl Street bridge. Have you done any research that would change that opinion?

Bob McCoy said after talking to the Superintendent and the Bus Superintendent as well, Carl Street is your better choice.

Mike said and it is closed.

Bob said right. I guess their hope is that the next inspection on Short, we don't get shut down and maybe reduced or whatever at the most.

Mike said if we can get both of these engineering fees paid for, I like the idea of trying to do them at the same time, doing both of them.

Tom said I would agree Community Crossings and funding out of either the EDIT or Windfarm, I would be willing to use one or a combination of both.

Mike said I just suggested the alternative; my preference would be to tell Council that we'd like to spend windfarm money on this bridge.

Gary said I'd be open to that but I'd also be open to discussion on a combination of some sort.

Tom made a motion to accept SJCA's proposal for engineering fees at the cost of \$192,450.00 for bridge 308 and ask Council to decide how to fund it. Gary seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Mike said Council meets the first Tuesday in October and that matter will be brought before them to see if and how they want to fund it. The choices are they could fund it out of rainy day, they could fund it out of windfarm and then we have to fund it out of windfarm or they could say no we don't want to fund it and then we would have to relook at it to see how we want to fund it.

Ceann Bales – Tower King tower location recommendations

Ceann said I brought the person in the know from our group and he's here to help and he's already caught one error so that's why we pay him the big bucks. This is Joe Batt, he's the chair of our technology committee, he's been on the committee for what 20 some years, since the beginning of time. What we have here today is we met, the technology committee met last week via zoom with Tower King representatives, Derrick Mcgrue and Grant Phillips, they've been working to identify a recommendation for the locations for a couple towers. Focus on the first tower 1, it is reassuring to know that based on where our initial thoughts of the technology committee felt is that tower 1, they would like to locate, I think you got your minutes from our meeting. So, option one which would be around the Purdue Davis farm, that's where they're recommending tower 1 to be as you can see they feel that they might be able to get a larger provider on that since it's closer to a highway, so that's why their recommending that, they did reach out to both New Lisbon and Watch. New Lisbon likes that location, Watch does not, will not use it but the committee still feels that's the best location or tower 1.

Mike said can I ask why Watch does not like this location?

Joe said they have other assets in the area. So, their serving that area.

Mike said New Lisbon likes it I presume, if the price is right New Lisbon would use this location and that would put competitive internet providers in that location.

Joe said this is all about getting access to the residents in that area, they are spotty. So, there would be a cost if we put up the tower and we only have New Lisbon on it, that will cost us but it meets our goal. The only way Tower King is going to make money on this is if they can get a cell provider on this also. Which would also be better for the residents out there also. I think it's a good idea to get that tower up.

Ceann said location two, is actually location 1 option 1 because that is the one that Watch likes the location but New Lisbon does not. If you received your map, it's the one that's a little closer to the airport. It's location one the Greenville Pike, southeast tower number 1, just slightly closer to Winchester on that tower.

Mike said I am confused.

Ceann said that's why Joe is here. Tower King did not have a preference really for location one or location two for tower two. So, on Greenville Pike, let's back up.

Mike asked what is location option two on your notes?

Ceann said it is the one that is on further down on Greenville Pike. It is the one that New Lisbon liked but Watch did not like. What we are actually recommending is location option one, that New Lisbon does not feel that this is an ideal location for them but Watch likes that location and that location if you look at your map, it's the one that is a little closer to the airport.

Mike said that is the one that your recommending?

Ceann said that is the one that we are recommending. On this one unlike the other tower, Tower King did not really have a strong recommendation either way. Their feeling is was that there really isn't going to be either one is not going to be really liked by a larger provider do to population density and do to not having access to a highway.

Mike said on this map it is Greenville Pike, southeast tower number 1?

Ceann said correct.

Mike said it could have concerns with the airport?

Ceann said correct. They really won't know that until they submit to the FAA, is that correct?

Joe said yes, that is what it sounded like. They didn't expect it to be significant problems because it's not in line with the runway.

Mike asked is our zoning ordinance require local board authority too? I know they do that on wind towers or they did but we removed that I think. Have you talked to Randy Abel?

Ceann said no.

Mike said at one time wind towers were required to not only have FAA approval but local airport board authority approval and I want to say we removed that. But, I don't know that off hand. But, if it's for wind towers, I suspect it's for towers as well.

Joe said the way we ended up with these locations is we were looking at where there's not a whole lot of service and the northwest corner popped out pretty easily. Also, where service will be provided by the federal funding that's come the last couple years. Cat two is the most recent one and that covers a lot of the southern part of the county. So, the southwest corner where we have had a lot of complaints about not a lot of service, there's a lot of potential service coming, so that is why we've focused more on the southeast because that's closer to being mature to what's on the southwest.

Mike said do I read Watch is going to put their own tower down in that area in here.

Joe said that also complicates things but they are not public so we don't know where things are going. We know Watch has a newish tower closer to the Ohio line, it's probably why they are not as interested.

Ceann said we understand there is a tower that you were talking about that is being built down along 227 but we asked Tower King and they are not aware of who's constructing that.

Mike said it came out a while back that it is six miles south of Union City on 227.

Tom said it was a cell phone tower wasn't it?

Mike said I think so.

Gary said that's what they said, but I said something to Randy, he said nobody had applied for any permits.

Joe said they hang each other's equipment on each other's towers all the time, so as long as there's a tower down there, we probably shouldn't put up another tower.

Mike said right, and Tower King's recommending guided towers?

Joe said yes, you get height for less cost.

Ceann said and they did say the cost right now is about 35% more, do to steal, they did talk about that in their notes. Their other prices did not but they are hoping as they pursue they still have work to do that hopefully the cost will come down on that. But they said there are option if you wanted. What they quoted \$117,000 is for a 250-foot heavy duty guided tower and there would be some options they said to maybe do a lessor, that concerns me a little bit personally but we can see where that goes.

Mike said based upon other matters 4 ½% is not a whole lot of an inflationary increase.

Joe said 35%.

Mike said I'm reading \$117 the other expenses.

Ceann said it is going to estimate 35% higher than the original cost of \$117,000.00 do to the increase price of the steal. The other \$113,500.00 that was presented to you in the quote for permits and other engineering, those are fixed costs, more stable. It's the \$117,000.00 that they had price for the actual construction for the tower because of steal right now, they roughly estimated it's going to be about 35% more if we were to build it today. They are hoping that will decrease as they go through their process.

Gary said they also suggested, I gather from Grant's conversation, he suggested seriously we look at 300 foot rather than 250 while we are building it because even though costs had gone up on steel, it would not be significantly more to go the other 50 foot.

Mike said you got to get the permit anyway.

Ceann said he said the FAA would really determine what those heights could be.

Gary said they did that at the new highway facility on that tower. They had us at 200 feet and we went back and ask them to reevaluate the situation with the airport and they came back and said a 300 foot would work there.

Mike asked when did you send that email out with the technology notes?

Ceann said it would have been in your packet. I sent them to Laura on Thursday.

Tom said I didn't get it.

Mike said I got it. You are recommending tower location in option one and both tower locations, tower 1 and tower 2?

Ceann said yes.

Mike said do you have a rough total number for us based upon Grant's?

Ceann said if you just go back to what his original proposal was, that's what I had broken out when he made a recommendation to the joint group, the total cost to do the one up, now granted remember this is a 250, this is not a 300 and it does not include the 35% for the actual construction it was \$230,500.00.

Mike said for each.

Ceann said yes, for each.

Mike said potentially it could be 35% higher plus additional if we go another 50 feet?

Ceann said correct.

Joe said it's a very rough number we started with when we talked to him was \$750,000.00 because he needs some idea of scale, where were at so he said someplace around there. It looks like we came in below that.

Mike said we budgeted \$400,000.00 from EDIT.

Ceann said for one?

Joe said for both?

Mike said I want to say it was for four at that time. We've not changed that budget at all, I don't believe we have and I don't think Council has either. If the broadband portion of the whole communication project which we were going to take from EDIT, we said would be around \$400,000.00 based upon the initial estimate of four 180-foot towers.

Joe said these are prioritized, the one in the northwest corner, followed by the one on Greenville Pike, as we talked with him, we laid those out and then there are a couple other locations to look at later depending on how these worked out.

Mike said the goal is to still maybe have four at least four locations.

Joe said where ever we see the need. The goal was getting access to the community.

Mike said none of these would qualify for ARP because they don't offer enough speeds up and down to spend ARP money, unless by 2025 they may change the rule on ARP funds.

Joe said we are not delivering internet, were building towers for the ISP's.

Mike said you may never know, they may change the rules. What do we want to do here this morning?

Gary said my personal opinion is I think we should move forward with the one in the Farmland area, since we feel definite that is going to serve a significant number.

Mike said I would agree with that. I guess my question would be would it be a benefit to us and what would we be out to say we'd like to do recommendation tower number 2 in the future, can we go ahead and get a FAA clearance to see what size tower we can build out there without committing to building the tower?

Ceann said I did ask about when I said I was the one presenting to the Commissioner's this morning about forwarding both of these and does that have to be committed and they said yes, if you come back with us because expenses will be incurred, because I think he is thinking about what we might be out, if you don't end up building it, we will be out money.

Joe said all the big expenses are for hardware, fence and tower. I could imagine it would be like \$30,000.00, \$20,000.00 to have it ready to go. Is that reasonable to have them do the engineering but not building the tower. Part of it depends on sight acquisition, how much fence you need depends on the sight.

Mike said the other question is if you go today and get FAA clearance, how long does that last. Is that something that last forever?

Steve Barnes said two years.

Joe said the other thing two years from now, technology is going to be different. That is a big risk I've mentioned if Elon Musk's stuff works great, if it works as advertised, then this might be for not. Things hardly ever work as advertised.

Steve said I might state that on Highway 1 where the tower's proposed there is fiber optic that goes right up Highway 1 between Farmland and Redkey and that was a very big connector point for Verizon, for AT&T and for Sprint T Mobile and that is an area up there that is very needed for the cellular connection as well because the next tower, the towers there at Farmland and Parker and the next towers are clear up at Redkey, there is one on the other side of Albany but in that area, the northern part of Randolph County it's pretty dense and they are trying to build along highway's where ever possible.

Joe said so, if we build the tower and one of the cell companies put's equipment on there, then we start making money. That's not the goal of this project.

Mike said I would be okay to decide this morning to pursue the building of tower 1, option 1, which is Davis Purdue Farm and expend up to another \$30,000.00 to develop a plan to do tower 2, option 1 and that would get us to find out how big a tower we could put in that spot and if it comes back we can't put the size tower we want, it may not be the best option.

Joe said we are also not building the towers unless we get commitment from the ISP's. It would be if Watch wants to put antenna's on there, how high do they want to put them, how high will the FAA let us put them.

Mike said the FAA is kind of a stop gap here.

Tom said I will make that motion. Gary seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Ceann said you are approving to proceed with building tower 1, option 1 at the Davis Purdue Farm and expending up to \$30,000.00 to pursue tower 2 which would be option 1.

Mike said yes.

Meeks asked is that out of EDIT?

Mike said that is what we originally proposed spending it out of is EDIT, so yes.

Tom said yes, that's out of EDIT.

Mike said we need to modify our EDIT plan.

Meeks said I just need the total number, up to how much?

Mike said at this point in time it's \$400,000.00 because that is what we committed to before.

Meeks said we might still have that in our EDIT plan, that's what I'm trying to figure out.

Mike asked you don't think we'll make any money off the internet providers that are hanging off that tower?

Joe said our main goal is to make sure all the kids in the community have access, it's our understanding that 1/3 of the kids take home devices and they can't use them at home. Another one is that we have business quality access in every corner of the county. Which may come at a much higher cost than what the kids need.

Gary said I don't see this in our EDIT plan.

Meeks said we will have to amend it. I am just going to put up to \$400,000.00 for broadband infrastructure in Randolph County.

Zachary Schoenfeld, EDPR – Amended Road Use Agreement

Meeks said he sent an email today stating that they are going to keep doing the paving and their road use agreement isn't ready to be signed.

Tom said they should be close to done by the end of the week.

Meeks said it said last week you were provided with a draft RUA before that can be finalized EDPR development team was tasked with procuring the bond in the full amount, I am happy to report that, that action is completed. Please advise if there are any questions or current concerns from your review, will hopefully be finalized this week.

Tom said they should finish the first lift this afternoon and be ready to start the second. That is where they go in and level and then they'll put the final coat on which should hopefully smooth everything out. Even the first lift has improved the roads down there. The people down there will be very pleased when it's done.

Mike said were okay with the scope of work 1.0 to 1.7 and that basically defines how much their putting on each section of road where they are patching and repairing?

Tom said yes, I am trusting Scott, that he's studied it and he thinks it will be good.

Mike asked you've seen this Mike?

Mike Haffner said yes, I have.

Mike said your in agreement with it?

Mike Haffner said yes.

Gary said on the extra Mike that you were talking about paving here and paving there and so on, your using this company?

Mike Haffner said they're there and I was planning on using E & B.

Gary said it makes sense.

Mike Haffner said we would use E & B if we were to extend any roads or do any extra.

Gary said you haven't made those choices yet.

Mike Haffner said no, Tom and I just at the beginning stage of even looking at it because like I said we just really now was showed an updated map of where they're going to pave, to possibly even think about extra. It might not even need it. I talked to Scott Fisher and he personally and he's got a couple of other people that would be willing kick their own money in to possibly extend and pave some areas. He's basically wanting our permission to be able to at their expense to do it. I said I need to talk to Tom on that and get back with him and first of all we are going to need areas, what their doing and how their going to do it. Then I will inform Tom.

Tom said I got a call Friday night, two of the farmers there who are willing to contribute because it would benefit their operation and they've profited regularly by EDPR as far as towers and land and so I went down there. Scott showed me what were doing and what we want to expand, we'll be able to carry Losantville south of Dalton Pike to the County line and then like I said if we can go 800 West to Henry County that road would be good from 35 to 36, I think that part of the County will be in good shape for quite a few years to come.

Gary said I think those decisions need to be made but if were going to use the same company.

Mike Haffner said you might want to take a vote.

Tom said if you want to do that, Scott's the general contractor, so he's planning on using E & B to finish this out.

Mike asked how much extra are we talking about paving?

Tom said the 6/10 is basically everything else he's planning on doing on his own, the 6/10 is out of the scope of work he's was going to take it all the way, we were going to stop at the bridge south of Losantville but he's going on another 3 or 4/10 to the county line. Then the other is 1000 South between, I forget it's a little job between 36 and 1. Basically I think he's talking about adding 6/10 to it. Then he is going to add about 1/10 of a mile from the bridge where laydown yard was and then he is going to go across the road to his parking lot, the old fertilizer plant, he's doing that on his own and then were going to try and help probably \$50,000.00 will get that 6/10 of a mile paved 800 South from 1200 over to the Henry County line. That is basically what we are going to try and contribute to and a local farmer contribute to that also. Hopefully around \$50 or \$60,000.00 will get that 6/10 of a mile done.

Mike said when you say we, that's us and the Highway Department or just us?

Tom said that's the County Highway Department. I wasn't going to ask the Commissioner's for anything outside of the Highway budget. It will all be from the Highway budget.

Mike Haffner said there shouldn't be anything outside of the Highway. There is a spot up on 1100 West that's south of 1000, I think they were just going up to their wind mill lane, there is literally only about 4/10 left to make it to the county line, I think we need to take it the rest of that 4/10 but Scott might have already said that is already in the scope of the project. We do have some funds available but a reminder that we have other people in the community that like to see paving in other corners of the county as well. Priority we just need to decide which one is the best to use them funds with.

Gary said my feeling would be since were down there, were talking about a little here and a little there and so on. A lot of the people down there in that section of the county have endured the extension of time that took to construct the facilities, really, they had to go through several months that they weren't anticipating even at the onset. I think we ought to go ahead and do that while they're there and why they have the equipment there. It's going to cost way more to come back.

Mike Haffner said they are supposed to be letting me know approximately where they solar II is going in because if it goes on many of these roads, I'd just soon wait until solar II gets done with them roads. I hate to pave a road and then a year later have the solar come in and damage that road. They are supposed to be letting me know if there is any overlap of roads that possible we might want to not quite do until that project is done.

Mike said that would then defeat doing while they are down there because they are not going to get that information to you while the paving crew is still down there.

Tom said I don't think there is anything east of 1 that's going in the windfarm. I think the solar is all east of 1. I wouldn't think anything would need to go west of 1 traffic wise.

Gary made a motion to go ahead and finish paving the approximate 6/10 of a mile previously discussed using E & B Paving and paying for this out of Highway funds. Tom seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Mike Haffner asked Meeks do the invoices need to be below the \$150,000.00.

Meeks said yes or you have to do the bidding.

Mike asked did we approve the road use agreement?

Meeks said no because we don't have one yet. I only have a draft, they said they were going to finalize it this week.

Mike said but we don't have any objections to the scope of work and the map they provided.

Tom said I think we will be able to see the finished product before it gets done.

Mayor Bob McCoy

Bob said the Willard area is getting ready to be milled and paved, they are starting today, depending on how much rain we get. That area will get cleaned up because it's been torn up for quite a while. They were supposed to have that done before school started but the paving company was running three weeks behind and then our next project is going to start on the Gaslight edition, which that will be a total rebuild. That will be a project that will probably last a year.

Other Business:

Art Moystner, Randolph County Sheriff

Art said I was going to have something for you but they didn't get the quote to me in time. I did send an email to you guys regarding the ARP funds and having that discussion. I see it's on your agenda for later. I can wait and come up if you want at that point in time to discuss that.

Mike said we can talk about it now if you want.

Art said I provided some information in an email and it's just one of those things that I see several communities have done it for emergency services, there are a few communities that have done it for all of their employees and the information that I've been able to find in talking to Laura and I received an email from Meeks regarding that, I know it takes a combined meeting between you and Council to move forward with anything. Laura explained to me there are a few hoops for some of the departments to jump through if that is something that were interested in doing. I know the Council when I talked to them at their last meeting basically said that it needed to be initiated by the Commissioner's if it were something we were going to look at.

Mike said I am not sure it needs a combined meeting do it, but I think it would probably behoove us to have a combined meeting to determine whether or not we want to do it. If we want to do it and how far it goes, I mean as I read it even goes beyond county government.

Meeks said from the meeting we had, what we took from that, the Council has to appropriate the money out of the ARP fund. So, the Council approval is for that and the Commissioner's need to do an ordinance or resolution on how to spend the ARP funds. It takes the Council to appropriate the funds and you say how to spend it. If other than the Sheriff's Department and EMT that's specifically designated in there, it certainly sounds like the vast majority of employee's would probably be able to qualify for the premium pay from the ARPA funds, the additional hoops that Art talked about was, we need probably the department heads to tell us why they would qualify, if your face to face with people. You got to assign the risk levels to the employees and maybe tell us what their employees' kind of do, so then we have a little bit of backing when you did do the ARP. Madison, they give it to all employees, but that was a city. Also, if you are paying more than 150% of the state average and I don't know what the state average is, they do not qualify. I think most of our people would qualify on that. I can tell you elected officials probably don't qualify.

Mike said I thought I read where they were excluded.

Meeks said we asked, that was a specific question that was asked and it certainly sounded like they didn't qualify to me when we had that discussion and if you go back in time, prior to March 3rd there are some complications so the suggestion was don't go back further than March 3rd but go forward or do something after March 3rd. So that was most of our discussion and what I took from it was that we probably should have a joint meeting to discuss it and if you are going to do the premium pay after that joint meeting have the department heads that aren't specifically stated, have them let us know why they think they would qualify.

Art said I think this would be one way to show some appreciation to the employees for some of the things they've contended with over the last almost two years now. I know we are contending with it currently inside the jail. The staff has done a great job in dealing with those issues.

Mike asked did I read in the controlling qualifications that those departments that support those departments qualify as well.

Meeks said you assign a risk level to them.

Mike said I'm thinking the E911 office.

Meeks said if you face the public, interact with others, what type of interaction do they have. I would think E911 would interact with the jail staff, especially ours. No one is remote working. Really the only thing that would disqualify people are remote workers. If you're at home working, you do not qualify. I don't think we have any, I asked Laura and I don't think we have any.

Mike said what responsibility do we have to offer premium pay to private industry?

Meeks said we didn't talk about that at the meeting.

Mike said there are hospitals here that face it every day.

Meeks said I don't know that we have an obligation to do it.

Mike said that is one of the qualifiers is a health care worker.

Meeks said it makes sense but we did not discuss it.

Mike said that's not tied to, some places I guess, maybe not anymore but Randolph County used to own its hospital, I don't know if there's any entities out there that still own their own hospital and their talking about health care workers in that situation or are we talking about health care workers that work at IU Med Center or St. Vincent.

Meeks said we did not ask that question.

Art said I just know that some of the changes that we've had and with the income levels where they're at I think it would be an opportunity for those of us that are in positions to show the

employees some appreciation with the premium pay. I think they have done a good job and come up with some interesting rules throughout this as we all tried to work our way through some of it and still are. I believe in varying degrees they've been out in that whether it's the jail working with the inmates that's exposed, the officers that are going to the houses, EMS who is transporting.

Mike said I don't disagree.

Art said I know that is one of the four criteria for the funds, because I know we have the lost revenue portion that we know we are able to use for other things, I think it is one of the four that is in that money that they have tied up that we really can't get to right now anyway.

Mike said do we want to request from Council when a good time for them to meet would be to talk about this further.

Angela said we are having a Council meeting October 18th.

Meeks said I am going to be out of town that week. October 18th, what time?

Angela said 7:00 pm.

Mike said I imagine it isn't included in their \$2500.00 retainer but it would be nice to have Veronica here. But I don't know if I want to pay her rate to drive up here and advise us, if were already paying her \$2500.00 a month to advise us. It doesn't have to be the 18th of October.

Meeks said what are they doing on the 18th?

Mike said approving the Library budget. For that they might only have four people show up, at 7:00 pm. The question is do we need Meeks at this meeting or not. I can be available on the 18th. Why don't we approach Veronica?

Meeks said I will send her an email.

Mike said we will plan on joining them on the 18th.

Tom made a motion to have a joint meeting with Council October 18th at 7:00 pm to discuss ARP fund bonus pay for the employees of Randolph County and beyond. Gary seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Art said a positive note, I started receiving emails from Axon so I think our equipment for the body cameras and mobile cameras is starting to move forward. I am pretty excited about getting that and setting up some training for the individuals and getting everything installed. I am going to get with Adam so he can walk through with me and cover the IT part that I don't understand.

Mike asked any word on that additional grant money available for that?

Art said I have yet to, I know Dave Lenkensdofer had sent an email out and we received a response back that they have still have not done anything with that grant money.

Mike said somebody got \$80,000.00 for their body cams. Somebody in Indiana.

Art said the State Police probably.

Mike said it was a local department.

Bob said we paid for ours, we got tired of waiting.

Mike said it was in our region somewhere.

Art said the one that I submitted was for rural counties and I have not heard back from it yet, that was up to \$35,000.00. I still haven't heard anything from the state of Indiana on how to move forward with that.

Mike asked what did you find out on the air conditioner, anything?

Art said they have not given me a price yet. When I get that quote, I will email it to you.

Mike said what about the second fire alarm quote, do you have anybody that can do that for you.

Art said that's the one that the company came, they were supposed to have the quote to me last Thursday, so I could get it emailed to you and I have yet to receive that quote. I will be calling them this afternoon.

Steve Barnes is there going to still be conversations later on about the ARPA funds or is that all of it.

Mike said that was all of it.

Steve said I have a question as far as additional ARPA funding and Art you might be part of this and that is how has the communications between the towers gone, at one time the FCC had stopped the licensing for the connections between those towers and Chris was still trying to come up with how they were going to connect the tower up to the barn and out at Deerfield and they didn't know how that was happening.

Mike said I think we have the opportunity to connect it as originally planned with the Microwave. We are not having to go fiber.

Steve said I was wondering with the ARPA money since part of that is broadband you could utilize some of that ARPA money for that to connect those towers and build fiber to all those customers between those location as well.

Mike said at this time we are using what we already paid for which is the microwave system. We are thankful that we didn't have to buy a new system and try to sell an old system that wasn't being approved anymore.

Steve said I agree.

Mike said that is something in four or five years that we can use money for in the future because it's one of, other than the restriction of speed it's pretty wide open to use it for broadband.

SJCA Task Order #10

Mike said we have a task order number 10 supplemental to prime agreement which is the bridge 308 engineering fees in the amount of \$192,450.00. We approved that and just need to sign the task order.

Minutes of September 7, 2021

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

Regular Claims \$736,076.38

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

Payroll Claims \$218,884.10

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

MPX Claim \$27,000.00

MPX Claim \$9,628.15

Mike asked is there any reason not to continue to table these?

Gary said nothing has changed to my knowledge.

Tom asked have we got an inspection report on the towers?

Mike said I don't know, have we received an inspection report?

Gary said no, they completed them Thursday. They did them all in one day, I had an email last night saying that his intent was to have us a report no later than two weeks, hopefully within a week

Tom made a motion to continue to hold those claims. Mike seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Pyramid Claim \$4,000.00

Pyramid Claim \$233.28

Pyramid Claim \$2,280.00

Mike said we have three Pyramid claims.

Tom made a motion to table the Pyramid claims. Gary seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Rex Collins Electric claim \$11,122.00

Mike said the Rex Collins Electric claim in the amount of \$11,122.00 is retainage of 5% and is the balance of the contract.

Tom said I would table that until we are all done.

Gary said it doesn't show retainage.

Mike said it doesn't look like he has any retainage on this.

Gary said when I read that I thought that was interesting because all the rest retained the retainage as they went along.

Mike said it doesn't have any work completed.

Gary said it shows that everything is completed.

Mike said it has under this period, work completed they've got 40 cents. I'm not sure what this is for.

Gary said I don't think it's billed correctly.

Mike said I would say we just ask them to rebill that if they want paid.

Gary said it looks to me like that is retainage. And we are not going to pay retainage because they have not completed the project.

SJCA Claim \$3,277.00

Mike said it looks like these are for the three Windsor bridges. Would that be correct Perry?

Perry said I think so, I haven't seen it.

Mike said it is for bridges 162, 174 and 175.

Perry said that is correct.

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

EDPR Claim \$2,000,000.00

Mike said we don't have a contract signed yet, the paving is about done. Are we ready to pay this EDPR claim or do we want to wait?

Meeks said you need a contract.

Randolph County United September \$18,467.67

Randolph County United Tourism \$2,365.67

Gary made a motion to approve the two Randolph County United claims. Tom seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

EDIT Plan Amendment and Meeting date

Mike asked do we want to amend this again before we establish a meeting date so we don't have to have a meeting after we amend it again?

Meeks said if you set one after your next Commissioner's meeting that would probably be okay.

Mike said how about Wednesday October 13th at 6:00 pm?

Gary said alright.

Mike said does that work for you Tom?

Tom said yes.

Baker Tilly Amended Agreement

Mike said the next item is a Baker Tilly amended agreement.

Angela said we had to have a ceiling, it was open ended where we just paid by the hour for their services and ARPA requires us to have a ceiling amount.

Mike said is that SBOA?

Meeks said it sounds like Veronica.

Angela said I don't know. It could not be opened ended.

Meeks said it makes sense.

Mike said where is the ceiling in the contract.

Meeks said it is usually in the exhibits.

Angela said the next to the last page.

Mike said it is a ceiling of \$25,000.00 for their recommendation and advice and counsel for our use of ARPA funds. Were being asked to sign this contract with Jason Semler, not to exceed \$25,000.00.

Tom made a motion to approve this contract and authorize Mike Wickersham to sign on behalf of the county. Gary seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

MPX Change Order number 03C-02

Mike asked has this been corrected?

Angela said no.

Mike said we are still dealing with the same problem we had the last meeting, it's still \$25,000.00 to high. Again, Pyramid has signed this and Pyramid needs to either advise us why it is correct or correct is for us.

Gary said they say they've tried but I've never seen any method of trying very hard.

Mike said I don't see any reason to accept the change order.

Gary said I don't either.

ARPA Funds use plan

Mike said we do not have any more ARPA fund discussions to have at this time, do we not?

Five Star Quote – Phishing campaign

Mike said we have the Five Star quote for the phishing campaign.

Adam said my patriots at Five Star are planning on coming to the next meeting so it's in the same week as the Council meeting. I would say they're were a couple discussions today that were related to each other. The were Steve Barnes mentioned those towers, having a fiber connection to that tower by the Highway Department would enable us to service the Highway Department better as Five Star, so specifically that tower would be a good use of funds and I am recommending that as your IT. That would be a good way to use funds, if you have the funds to do that.

Mike said there is fiber that runs along that.

Adam said the problem is that it is a big huge pipe and so to terminate that costs like a ton of money to be able to cut off of what's there. But if you bring it back from the other side it actually is less money. So, back from Winchester.

Mike said back from where we have it ourselves?

Adam said yes and actually I met with Steve last week and what he was saying is that it runs along that road back by the cemetery from Winchester. He would be able to service all the people along that road with fiber.

Mike said we already have it.

Adam said they have fiber?

Mike said Comcast is fast out there, maybe not, I don't know.

Adam said either way, I'm willing to give you all the information. That's the situation.

Mike said do we have a hard quote for that.

Tom said I heard it was half a million dollars.

Mike said that was a pretty loose quote. Anyway, that would enhance connectivity to the Highway Department to this system here?

Adam said exactly, then we would be able to put them on the same network as us and give them all the same securities that we have, all the same redundancies that we have. Right now, we went out and did an inspection and when we were there the internet wasn't on, I mean they have really spotty network out there.

Mike said who would you recommend we get to quote that project seriously, I guess not a rough estimate but were looking to run fiber to all the towers as well.

Gary said all the towers, Comcast come in at a little over \$300,000.00.

Adam said what I can say is this is not my expertise area but I will say that our relationship with New Lisbon, they are giving us a heck of a deal on the things that they are doing for us. I think that partnership has been really great for us.

Mike said so you would recommend maybe we talk to New Lisbon about running fiber to the Highway Department? Can you do that for us?

Adam said yes, sure I will.

Mike said did anybody bite for the phishing expedition that went out?

Adam said I don't think so, I think I caught it early enough this morning that we are going to be all right.

Mike said I look forward to the phishing campaign quote.

Intellispace Corsium Data Management Solution Agreement

Mike said this is the heart monitors for the EMS ambulances that connected it to the hospital. Have you reviewed this agreement Meeks?

Meeks said yes, 10 of 14 is the problem.

Tabled until we get all pages.

Citizen Comments

None

Adjournment


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

Reviewed and signed this 18 day of October, 2021.

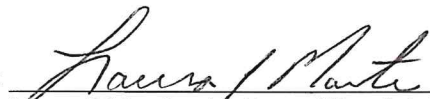
RANDOLPH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS







ATTEST:



Laura J Martin, Auditor of Randolph County