

## **Randolph County Commissioners**

December 21, 2020

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 and County Attorney Meeks Cockerill.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

Michael Wickersham, President presided over the meeting.

### **Julie Wilson and Amy Alka, Randolph County Extension – Program Update**

Julie said I brought Amy with me today. We just wanted to come and give you an update of what's been going on for the past six or seven months. In the folder there is our program reviews for myself, Amy and Daron and then the green newsletter is my newsletter, this is the most up to date of what is going on in the 4-H world. Enrollment is going on now until January 15<sup>th</sup>, so if you have children haven't signed up, encourage them to do so before January 15<sup>th</sup>. We were able to have a fair last year, it looked a lot different because of Covid, but we were able to have a fair and auction and showcase their hard work all summer. An exciting thing that Amy and I are working on in the newsletter on page 3, is our water windmill challenge, we are working with EDP and the Headwaters wind company and they are going to sponsor us. It is an at home wind challenge that they are going to get educated on why the wind blows, how the wind blows, how do the wind turbines work and at the end there will be a challenge. They actually are sponsoring 25 kids and the first 25 kids that sign up will get a kit and that also will get them enrolled in the 4-H program.

Mike asked how much are those kits.

Julie said roughly, we haven't bought everything yet, they gave us \$1000.00 and that is going to be 25 kids plus the 25 kids will get enrolled in 4-H. The kits were \$650.00 and they gave us \$1,000.00 to help cover additional supplies.

Mike asked do you think you will have more than twenty-five kids sign up?

Julie said I don't know, we had an ag teacher reach out to us and she wants to facilitate this with her ag kids, which is 53 kids. So, we haven't quite figured out.

Mike said you could use more money, if anybody wanted to donate to 4-H for these kids.

Amy said absolutely.

Mike said that is basically \$25.00 per kid.

Julie said yes. That is what we roughly figured it would be. That is going on and registration is open until January 6<sup>th</sup> for that. Then starting January 13<sup>th</sup> Daron and I will be facilitating friends and families again which was ranked the number one program in the world for helping families. That is also in this newsletter if you know any families that just want to come and learn how to communicate and function better as a family. It is a seven-week program starting January 13<sup>th</sup>. That is what I am doing, 4-H enrollment, the water windmill challenge and strengthening families. Randolph Central actually sent out an all call from the school system, so all of the Randolph Central kids got a little blurb about 4-H and how to sign up and we've gotten some 4-H'ers out of that. Some of the other schools are also willing to do that for me. We are hoping to continue to grow the 4-H program and offer new ideas during Covid.

Amy said in your packet, my latest newsletter is the yellow one and while Julie and Daron are doing strengthening families, lots of families have additional children that don't fit in that age group, so while they're going to be doing that, I am going to be offering a nature of teaching program and activities for the other kids so that the families don't feel like they can't attend if they have additional children. I'm going to be offering that during strengthening families. Just last Thursday we had a securing Indiana Pork supplies meeting with the Board of Animal Health and producers from Randolph County and one of the state vets explained to the producers what happens if we have the swine flu get to the United States and come to Indiana. It was lots of good information, the producers that attended have already got the first of two steps to the five-step situation of being ready for, if there is a problem and I hate to say it but it's moving and I hope it doesn't come here but with international travel and everything, it is probably just a matter of time. But we are going to be ready, we are going to keep working with our swine producers on that topic. After the first of the year, I am hoping to install some raised garden beds at the fairgrounds, I have worked with other locations during the summer but with Covid we are not allowed to do that, so we are going to offer some things at the fairgrounds. Nature of teaching again, we are going to offer that, pollinator camp, we are going to do a composting series for people. I'm leading a team of area seven educators and we are offering a horticultural series and that information will be coming out here right after the first of the year. So, lots of planning. We are still going to do farmer coffee hour, they are going to look differently obviously but we are still offering those. I got some really speakers, I've got the Indiana Farm Bureau state president going to speak, I have an attorney that is going to speak on succession planning and things like that, Nancy Bass will be there from the FFA to speak about the new program. Lots of stuff still going on, again it's going to look different, but we are still getting the information out there and lots of information. I think there is a future calendar in there of what is coming up on the first page. We are going to hit the ground running right after the first of the year.

Mike said I don't know, with the composting programs, if you enlisted or communicated with the Solid Waste office regarding those.

Amy said yes, I actually got a compost bin and I installed it in April or May, so I already got one going at the office, outside by the handicap entrance, we are going to use that. We can do composting inside or outside with worms. Another cool thing, I am partnering with some farmers in Tobago which is an island nation down by Venezuela and a lot of these things that I am doing here in Randolph County I am sharing with them. During the month of January and February. Hoping to travel there and maybe bring back some information about, I am finding

out that our agricultural is a lot more alike than different and their issues are really similar to ours.

Julie said there is a lot of other additional information in here, mainly we want to say thank you and we want to reassure you that all of our programs when we offer programs, we are required to do a safety plan through Purdue University and we are following the latest CDC requirements and are in contact with the Health Department here in Randolph County, so we are able to have programs and we are following the recommendations of what the current guidelines are.

**Robin Vickery – Advisory Board member recommendation**

Robin said I hope you all got a letter with the recommendation from our advisory board.

Mike said Gabe Winkle?

Robin said yes.

Mike asked what is the length of that term?

Robin said I believe it is 4-years.

Mike said anything you want to add to your letter?

Gary made a motion to appoint Gabe Winkle to the Community Corrections Advisory Board as a public defender. Tom seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

**Wendy McDavid and Sherri Thompson -Health Department Request to apply for grant**

Wendy said first I would like to introduce Sherri Thompson, she is our new Registrar/Coordinator at the Health Department. There is a fast track \$40,000.00 grant that will cover costs of administrators for the Covid-19 vaccine that the Indiana State Department of Health is putting out. Laura has the paperwork on it, they have just hit us really quick with that. I just want to know if it is something we can apply for. It should cover staff, anything that we need.

Mike said will it be a continuation of the Clinic that you have now?

Wendy said it is on its own but yes, similar.

Mike said it is a separate grant but it is going to support the same clinic.

Wendy said yes.

Mike said I understand that Council has already approve this request?

Wendy said yes.

Mike said it is a pass through, so we would not have to support it in anyway?

Wendy said tentatively the vaccines are in phase 1A right now which is the front line, there's 2000 doses we are each pushing out, they started last week, the next phase will be phase 1B and that is where the Health Department will come in to play, it will be our first responders, frontline workers at the hospital and things like that. That was scheduled to go January 4<sup>th</sup> but now they have pushed it back to January 11<sup>th</sup> at least that is what I have heard at this point. Tentatively around January 11<sup>th</sup> we have talked to them at the 4-H fairgrounds and we are going to use that facility and push as quick as we can and then, it's a two-dose vaccine so we are going to push the first dose and then we will register them for the second dose, hopefully the public doses will be out the end of March the first of April and we will do more pods then.

Mike said when you say public, that would be for the nursing homes?

Wendy said for everyone, the nursing homes will come in phase 1B in January. At least that is what we are being told.

Gary made a motion to approve this grant request. Tom seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

### **Bonnie and Anita – Taylored System - Taylored System Purchase agreement and Service Agreement**

Mike said this is the phone system that we approved last month. These are actually the agreements that go with what we talked about two weeks ago.

Bonnie said yes, there is the Taylored Systems that includes the cabling.

Mike said the purchase agreement?

Bonnie said yes, and the data infrastructure and then the labor and then the Sheriff's on-premise system.

Mike said this is the actual documents that we agreed to after we approved your quote, it is the same thing that was in your quote.

Bonnie said yes, our quote was kind of broken down into four different vendors, Taylored System, Zultys for the hosted piece, New Lisbon for the internet piece and then Comcast for your backup internet. Then once we do an audit of the outlying areas to make sure the correct number of analog lines is needed, there will be an additional one for New Lisbon to add analog lines. That should all match up with the summary page which is part of the proposal.

Mike said is John here?

Bonnie said not yet, he was supposed to be here.

Mike said the internet system that he is proposing.



Bonnie said is where we needed to have separated from your existing internet solution.

Mike said that is not replacing what we have, it is just adding the telephones which will then replace Frontier.

Bonnie said correct, and then we are doing Comcast backup in case something would happen to the New Lisbon correction.

Mike said backup for the telephone system. Is the speed that he is proposing satisfactory for the telephone system, 25 up, 25 down?

Bonnie said yes. I think that is the lowest amount that he can do. It will be sufficient since we are just running voice over it.

Mike said the first document is the Tailored System purchase agreement for \$97,987.11 which is for the installation of the cabling at the jail and the other three buildings.

Bonnie said it is also the phone system hardware.

Mike said the only thing that is does not include is the 4-H building.

Bonnie said correct, we removed that.

Mike said that includes the hardware?

Bonnie said yes and the data.

Mike said data equipment of \$16,940.00, cable installation, cloud install and Zultys MFE. I would entertain a motion to approve the purchase agreement for this.

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

Mike said the next one is the Service agreement.

Bonnie said this is for the county offices, for the 91 users. It included everybody but the Sheriff's Department.

Mike said this is a monthly total of \$1831.09.

Bonnie said it is a 36-month agreement.

Mike said is this similar to the service agreement we have now with you.

Bonnie said a little bit because of the service agreement you have with us, in here is included professional services, that will include any help desk and stuff that you have. With a hosted solution you are not going to see our trucks, we won't have to come on premise a lot.

Tom made a motion to approve the Tailored System Service Agreement for the courthouse and county offices but not the Sheriff. Gary seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

**New Lisbon Service request agreement (telephone service)**

**Comcast (backup internet for telephone service)**

Mike said the next agreement is the internet backup. Let's go to NLBC first because they would be providing the fiber optic internet service for our telephone system. It is an agreement for 60 months if I read that correctly.

Bonnie said yes, down at the bottom of the first page.

Mike said I am curious why yours is 36 and theirs is 60.

Bonnie said I didn't realize his was 60.

Mike said I don't know why we would go beyond yours.

Bonnie said I would agree with that.

Mike said we probably ought to table this or wait and see if John comes to see if he is willing to offer the same \$80.00 per month for 36 months as opposed to 60. We will table that until John gets here or until our next meeting and to have an opportunity to talk to John. Then that brings us to the Comcast backup and that is 24 months.

Bonnie said that is because of what ever their new promotion is, it is only a 24 month instead of 36. A lot of time once the 24 months falls off you will still continue to pay the same.

Mike said why don't we table these together and we will approve all the internet service together.

**Ceann Bales - 1) Mayor McCoy and I housing project**

Mike said I was at the Council meeting and the Council approved the request for \$150,000.00 from the wind farm account which basically throws the project back onto us from respect of the wind farm account, we would need to amend our decision to pay \$300,000.00 out of the wind farm and reduce that commitment from wind farm to \$150,000.00, if we want to pay out of the wind farm. I think the Council did indicate because they were short members, I don't think Rick Brown was there, I think Gary indicated that, that's as far as he would go at that meeting without a full Council. I suppose that leaves open the question at their next meeting in January, if they are full they could reconsider to go to \$300,000.00 or we could agree to the \$150,000.00 today and end the county funding although at our last meeting we did commit to \$300,000.00, we just chose to pay it out of wind farm and we do have other funds available if we wanted to commit to the \$300,000.00 as we did two weeks ago.

Bob said I did talk to Indiana American Water again, didn't really get anywhere with them, I think Missy and Ceann had talked to Senator Raatz as well Mr. Prescott, I think Senator Raatz knows the owner of American Water, so he is going to go back to him and see if they can get anything out of them, I don't know if he will get anywhere with that. Basically, at this point were still \$150,000.00 short, I didn't know whether EDIT would be something you guys would consider to get this project rolling. I am still where I was, I feel this is a needed project. Actually, I think there is more buzz going now then there was before about housing and a lot of interest in that area. I would say if we get the ball rolling, I think we are going to see that area develop rather quickly. I did talk to our Redevelopment Commission, we had a meeting last week, they're on board, we are exploring rather than TIF going another route, but they want to see some more numbers but we have no issue with TIF financing the \$1,073,000.00 for the sewage. We are actually going to see more growth on the east 27 TIF and in the future that really isn't in projections because it hasn't happened, other than O'Reilly coming in, that is part of that east 27 TIF and then also we got Reid which will be breaking ground possibly before the end of the year if not in January for a 20,000 square foot facility. That is going to be a big boost to that TIF area as well.

Mike said you don't have much faith in what Senator Raatz can do with Indiana American Water? They're not eve installing it.

Bob said I think the biggest thing is we felt that they should have a little bit more buy in on the project and from what I was told from my contact is that by law they are not allowed to do anything other than what they are doing. I guess if Senator Raatz talks to the owner then he may feel different, he may have a little bit more influence on him.

Mike said I have a conversation with a previous mayor who had issues with Indiana American Water on extension of water mains for commercial development, industrial development and he found the same issue.

Bob said it is a struggle to get anything out of them other than just their estimates of costs. I will say that I do have a couple of other projects possibly in the future that may be housing as well, I hope they will work with us in the future a little better than they are right now.

Tom said you are saying by statute they're not allowed to spend money.

Bob said yes.

Tom said why is that?

Bob said I don't know quite the wording but they just said by law they are not allowed to and it may come back to, I think one thing he did say that what they could possibly do is give us a break on materials. I think he throughout the number \$25,000.00 or something like that but other than that we really didn't get anywhere with it and I think from talking to Meeks and the way we need to handle this \$150,000.00 or \$300,000.00 would be to put it in our EDIT plan and

basically make it a grant to the investors to put the water in and at that point, I don't know if I can get that extra \$25,000.00 out of the water company or not.

Tom said it sounds like the statute should be changed.

Bob said you would think if they want development you would think that they would be willing to do that.

Tom said they are the ones going to be collecting the water bill.

Bob said exactly. It's frustrating and I think AEP was very reasonable in what they proposed.

Gary said you have a meeting set up with American Water, with Raatz?

Bob said I think he is going to be in contact with them, I haven't heard anymore, I don't know whether there is a time frame, being the holidays, like I said I don't know whether he will get anywhere with them or not. Our main thing right now if we are going to do anything, where the interest rates are, it is now the time to act, when it comes down to financing a million dollars whether it be through TIF or other means, you may be talking less than a percentage point in interest compared to some of the bonds that were refinancing now are 4 to 6%, we are going to save some money by refinancing some of our bonds, some of them we can't do to they are not callable. Which is somewhat frustrating because the interest rate is between 4 and 6%. Now is the time for anybody to do any projects if they are going to do to interest rates.

Ceann said I think Senator Raatz was looking after the first of the year as traveling to Indianapolis to do that but with what the Mayor is saying we need to get moving and the \$300,000.00 is that base, we are going to do everything we can to be below that, if we don't need all that, we really don't know where the numbers are going to come in at but those are estimates, those are solid numbers, we are looking at \$200,000 to \$300,000 as the need. If it comes in under that then that is great.

Bob said on the sewage could come under, I don't know, again they are estimates. I had HWC do the analysis earlier this year and my hope we can get some competitive bidding in.

Mike said Bob if we agreed to what the Council did then you are going to be \$150,000.00 short. I think you heard the argument and I think you would agree with the argument, what we do for Winchester, we are going to have to do for any other city or town that comes in here for a subdivision and I think that was kind of the thinking of the Council when they did wind farm and I am just wondering if we were to help you from EDIT, if we granted you \$100,000.00 from EDIT and then you borrowed \$50,000.00 from future EDIT and paid us back over a five-year period, would that be something you could do?

Bob said \$100,000.00 grant and then \$50,000.00 borrowed over five-years?

Mike said yes and that would be at zero interest. Basically, we could do that couldn't we Meeks?

Meeks said you did it for Ridgeville.

Mike said we have done it for Ridgeville and we done it for Lynn.

Meeks said we did it for Union City.

Bob said I'm agreeable to that. Like I said this is something that I think if we don't act and walk away from it, I think it would be crazy because I really see right now is the time to get something moving.

Mike said the other side of it is, we got a lot of unknowns here. In my opinion, what I would say is if we took that scenario, we take \$150,000.00 out of wind farm and then we would grant you \$150,000.00 out of EDIT, \$100,000.00 of which is a grant, \$50,000.00 of it is a repayable loan over five-years with 0% interest.

Bob said that is agreeable.

Mike said what do you think about that Gary?

Gary said I think that is a good approach, I want to see this program moving forward. I was thinking maybe Council would come through with a little more after the first of the year but I think we need to move forward with this and if you are willing to go that route, I am willing to support that decision. Gary said the funds that Council agreed to and what we are doing is going to the city right?

Mike said that is going to the City of Winchester.

Bob said it will go into our EDIT plan, I think that is the best way to structure it.

Meeks said we discussed it as being a grant to the City of Winchester's EDIT fund and then the City of Winchester would redo their EDIT plan.

Gary said I thought that is what we discussed, I just wanted to make sure that was right.

Mike said is that a motion?

Gary said yes. Mike seconded. Any discussion.

Tom said I think the owners should have more skin in the game, if we are giving them money for lots, they are going to build houses and sell them, their making a profit, if this is not a profitable venture, we are subsidizing some very high-end housing compared to low end housing which is a little unique. I am okay with \$150,000.00 wind farm money and a \$50,000.00 loan, but \$100,000.00 grant, I am just not sure about. What do the owners get out of this, are they going to put any skin in the game? They are going to have \$85,000.00, \$95,000.00 lots, are they going

to sell them. We are partnering with private enterprise and what are they getting out of this and what are they willing to give?

Gary said Winchester is doing the bargaining from my perspective, since we are giving the money to them. They will be repaying the loan out of the EDIT, they are being granted the funding that we are getting out of windfarm, they are going to receive the other, so what we are doing is giving it to Winchester, the City of Winchester is making the determination of how they want to use these funds. At this stage they made a proposal to us for housing and that is what they are saying they want to use it for. From my perspective we are giving it to any private, we are giving it to the City of Winchester to help move their program forward.

Bob said I don't look at it much differently than I would industry for instance I think \$100,000.00 went to APEX, they are making a profit and they are using our money to make profit but without that \$100,000.00 they probably wouldn't have moved forward with their expansion, moving into the old Drive Middle School building without us stepping up this out here will not happen as well. The actual number that they have in it and what they will make, I know they have spent a lot of money prepping that ground out there, I know they got to clean up the maintenance facility out there and I know they are talking fencing. What they spend on the lots and what they pay for the lots, I have no idea.

Mike said there will be drainage that they will have to pay for as well, I haven't heard you mention a drainage plan.

Bob said yes, that is all on them.

Mike said I don't know if they have talked to you yet or not Ed.

Ed said no.

Mike said they probably will be, I hope. If you are in favor of the \$150,000.00 from the wind farm and \$50,000.00 loan but not the \$100,000.00, would you like this motion divided into three parts?

Tom said it doesn't make any difference, I am assuming it is going to pass, so it really doesn't make much difference to do it either way.

Mike said there is a motion on the floor then. Do you have any other comments?

Tom said no.

Mike said Gary do you have any other thoughts?

Gary said no.

Mike said the motion is that we would agree to pay \$150,000.00 from wind farm, we would agree to the Council's decision and invest that money into the subdivision and we would pay



\$100,000.00 out of Randolph County EDIT funds and we would loan \$50,000.00 to the City of Winchester out of Randolph County EDIT funds to be paid back over five-years at 0% interest. All in favor of the motion signify by saying aye. Two aye votes. Tom voted nay. Motion carried.

Gary said was our windfarm motion based on Council acceptance and agreement, so we don't have to rescind?

Mike said no, they approved \$150,000.00 at their meeting on Tuesday December 8<sup>th</sup> so if we approve \$150,000.00.

### **Ceann Bales 2) RLF OCRA loan disbursement approval**

Ceann said this is the final of the \$290 some thousand that we been working on, so this will be to disperse the rest of those funds, which is great, we are hoping to get that done and all that money out to all our businesses by the end of the year. You can see the revolving loan committee, it was in your packet, they chose to support Bailey Cleaners, The Chocolate Moose, Community Transport and Roots, Tree Hill Farms and for the total of round III would be \$68,750.00 and that would disperse the rest of those funds. This was approved by our Board of Directors at a special meeting on December 17<sup>th</sup>.

Mike said we have the report. Are there any questions for Ceann on these loans?

Gary said sounds like a pretty good distribution of funds throughout the county.

Ceann said this will make 15 business's that we have been able to help with. Second round of funding, we helped over 50 with the first round of funding.

Mike said I think it is fair to say that, and I was at the Economic Development Board meeting, but Main Street Pub did not provide the necessary application documents, Wilco Bowl has not been in business and Drab to Fab.

Ceann said do to their financials and it not being a non-essential business it was decided to not fund them.

Gary made a motion to approve the list of business's as presented. Tom seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

### **Ceann Bales 3) Review RCU's Budget**

Mike said now we have the Randolph County United's budget.

Ceann said you have our proposed budget that went for the board to approve, this is for your review and answer any questions, you can see it is being divided with the new entity into three division, so we will have an Economic Development Division, a Chamber Division and a Tourism Division that goes into an overall combined budget for Randolph County United and that does reflect the decrease in funding that we requested. I know historically we have received \$298,000.00 from EDIT funds and we decreased that down to \$250,000.00 this year a

\$48,000.00, 16% decrease. You can see how we are looking at adjusting those figures, we are pretty excited with the fact that we are going to be able to on the functionalities of a chamber with no additional staff, rearranging how we are doing things, we are pretty excited about the venture and the new board. Packets have already gone out for partnership levels and I know Missy Williams and Scotty Harvey from our office have really been hitting the streets hand delivering packets and then mailing, I think they have got over 200 already distributed and we have already got about 4 in totaling about \$8,700.00. We are getting great response so far.

Mike said that is almost 20%.

Ceann said yes, we have only budgeted \$50,000.00, we weren't sure, this was all an unknown. You can see those Chamber activity budgets we have put in significant money for marketing and membership activities really help out local businesses and help them grow. You can see that we are adding actually new expenses even though we are decreasing our request from you guys. Again, we are using some of our savings, investing back into our self for this new endeavor and also through memberships and that is how we are able to do that and balance the budget.

Mike said are there any questions for Ceann about the budget?

#### **Ceann Bales 4) Renewed Agreement with Randolph County United**

Mike said this is our three-year capital commitment to Randolph County United for Economic Development, covers the years 2021, 2022 and 2023 and indicates that we will pay each year for the next three years the budgeted amount that Ceann indicated of \$221,612.00 per year on a monthly basis beginning January 1<sup>st</sup>.

Ceann said it should be \$250,000.00.

Mike said we are doing Tourism separate.

Ceann said okay.

Mike said the Tourism commitment is laid out separately in the EDIT plan.

Meeks said did you get my e-mail.

Ceann said yes. So, do we still claim that?

Meeks said the EDIT has to the Tourism \$28,388.00.

Ceann said that is different than what it has been in the past.

Mike said it is, so what we will do I presume is the claim will be two claims.

Ceann said Scottie will need to make a claim through tourism?

Mike said you will make the claim for Tourism.

Meeks said Tourism will need to make a claim, there needs to be two claims.

Ceann said that is different than what we have done in the past, I just want to clarify that?

Mike said you have always had tourism support in your payment, but you have always done it through one claim. It is on our agenda and hopefully we will approve that this morning and then Wednesday we have an EDIT Board meeting where it will be approved. Mike said we have the agreement in front of us any questions or comments from Commissioners?

Tom said I would like to just have a one-year budget approval every year, my term expires in two years and I hate to go beyond that.

Mike said we are not approving their budget, were approving our commitment to them and I understand what you are saying but we can change that at the end of a year if we choose to do so. The reason it is 3-years I presume Meeks, is because our capital improvement plan is a three-year plan.

Meeks said you can make it one year, it is three years because that is what it has always been 3-years. It says that the county may terminate this contract for any reason at any time but must give 30 days' written notice.

Mike said what is your feeling Gary?

Gary said I think we need a 3-year plan, a three-year contract of work on a plan from, the budgeting from year to year, I don't have a problem reviewing that every year. Based on this complete change they don't know what they are going to have either at the end of 2021.

Mike said if chamber memberships continue to come in the way they are they may come in and asking for less next year.

Ceann said that is the goal. I have said very honestly to you my goal is to decrease our dependency on EDIT funds through our organization.

Gary said I think this is an excellent way to do the chamber because we have had chambers, I thought that promoted a county wide chamber since I have been involved, you have had some interest and I think now that they have pulled this together, I think that it is going to help bring the county together more from the perspective of we are no longer going to be when I first become a Commissioner and entities saying we just feel like we are out here by ourselves. I think this is going to help bring that together so they feel like they are working together. I think it is going to bring more memberships too.

Mike said the key will be if they can offer value to the membership. It is easy to get that first-year member but if you come back and haven't offered any value its going to be more difficult.

Ceann said we have a good plan, we have a good plan of what we are going to do and Missy's put that together and so we are excited to see that move forward.

Mike said I am inclined to agree that a three-year plan fits better with the capital improvement plan and sitting here, we have or are going to commit ourselves to agreements that go occasionally beyond our terms. I understand where you are coming from Tom but I guess if there is a motion to approve this contract as written, I would probably go ahead and second it.

Gary made a motion to approve this contract as written. Mike seconded. Two aye votes. Tom voted nay. Motion carried.

Ceann said I plan to be here quarterly, our new board has adopted five focus areas to make sure that we are moving forward, being good stewards of the funds. Our focus areas are broadband, education, housing, quality of life and business expansion. We will be working with Ball State with each of those committees to set goals to move us forward on that. I will keep you abreast on how that moves forward and how were trying to achieve our goals and using the funds.

Mike said can you say those again a little slower?

Ceann said sure, broadband, education, housing, quality of life, business retention and expansion, those are the five broad areas and we are working with Ball State through the Community Foundation who received the grant to pay for us to work with Ball State to work with each of those committees and help us set actions sets and objective to achieve those. We will have identifiable work actions, work goals aligned with each of those five pillars. That will be happening beginning in January. We will be working with Lisa Jennings on that and that grant has already been approved.

Mike asked are there any questions for Ceann?

Ceann said I have one final update on the towers, I know our office has been working with and Gary has been involved in this all the meetings. Those four additional towers and those spots, we have been working with a firm and have decided to move in a different direction, we are finding that those four locations that we were given, may not be the best locations, so we have kind of pulled back and go in a different direction but I am excited to say that we have identified two good spots, for two of those four towers and our technology committee is working on hearing from another company after the first of the year to kind of locate where we think those other two towers should be. We want to make sure that we are thoughtful about that, one of the locations we were advised, we found out was exactly New Lisbon told us there was another tower already there so it didn't make sense to put that one there and so we are looking at definitely two locations, we do have two solid sites and Gary might be able to add to the conversation, he's been part of the technology committee. But I did want to update you, where we are going, we are definitely moving forward with that. Jay Batt is the chair of that and we got Steve Barnes from New Lisbon on there helping us and we are looking at hiring possibly a different firm to look at managing that and help us get through those.

Mike asked do we have any companies interested in locating all of our towers?

Ceann said we have New Lisbon and possibly Watch.

Gary said we have some interest.

**Jessica Cheesman – 3 utility agreements**

Jessica said Mike had these three utility agreements that needed approved.

Mike asked are these for Frontier?

Jessica said yes.

Mike said I presume the highway department is recommending that we approve these.

Jessica said yes.

Mike asked does anyone have any questions about them? Ones over county road 150 South, West 500 South and West 300 South.

Tom made a motion to approve these three utility agreements. Gary seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Mike said I have been advised by Perry Knox that we have a federal aid interview on January 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm and I presume that is down in Greenfield.

Jessica said it is a zoom. We have two applications in and we get 20 minutes for each.

Mike said Perry has indicated that we should have a County Commissioner at that meeting to emphasize our support with our local match funds for that. January 5<sup>th</sup> is Tuesday which is the day after our Monday meeting.

Tom said I can handle that.

Mike said if you could let INDOT know that Tom will be our representative there.

Jessica said I can do that.

**Jessica Cheesman – Community Crossings Contract**

Jessica said we were awarded the Community Crossing grant, we had \$854,058.36 that will be used toward 900 W between St Rd 32 and St Rd 1, 400 N from St Rd 1 to 1000 W, Old 27 from 27 to Base Rd and 300 E from 32 to Union City Pike. I have the contract from INDOT so we can get things rolling and I also have all the bid packets ready to be sent out. I know last year we had one signed and then we had to come back and have the additional. As long as there is an agreement that only one signs then I can send the minutes with this.

Mike said we are all here so we can all sign.

Jessica said they only sent me one signature and you can't add on to it and I even called her this morning and she was going to send extra but she said that was just for the federal not the state.

Tom made a motion to accept the Community Crossings grant and authorize Mike Wickersham as president of the Commissioner's to sign it. Gary Girton seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

### **Council update**

Mike asked Missy do you have anything from Council.

Missy said not much, I think you have already drawn attention to \$150,000.00 for the Winchester housing project. That was the main topic.

### **Other Business:**

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

Not here

#### **Sheriff's Compensation Agreement**

Mike said we have a contract with the Sheriff which the county agrees to pay the Sheriff \$102,484.98 for the 2021 year. I think he is doing a good job, I think we probably should agree to pay him.

Tom made a motion to approve the 2021 contract for the Sheriff. Gary seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

#### **Regular Claims \$650,114.91**

Mike said we received these claims via email. Does anyone have any questions or comments about the claims?

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

#### **Payroll Claims \$ 213,586.48**

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

#### **Frontier Webex Video Arraignment Claim \$79,429.16**

Mike said as you recall this is a request by the Sheriff's department so he could do video arraignments at the jail, it was discussed that this was a Covid reimbursement and we approved the purchase of this and the claim is \$79,429.16.

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

#### **SJCA Claim \$3,000.00**



Mike said the next item is the SJCA claim for \$3000.00, two invoices from SJCA for \$1500,00 each and the invoice covers the federal grant application for bridge 32 and bridge 85. We had agreed to pay this out of EDIT funds.

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

#### **Minutes of September 8, 2020**

Mike said we receive a copy of the September 8<sup>th</sup> minutes via email. Unless there is any additions, corrections or deletion to these minutes, I would entertain a motion to approve.

Gary made a motion to approve the September 8, 2020 minutes as presented. Tom seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

#### **Treasurer's November monthly report**

Mike said the treasurer's report was received via email and it is signed by the Treasurer Debbie Preston.

Gary made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report as presented. Tom seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

#### **Infirmary Barn lease**

Mike said the next item is the Infirmary Barn lease and this is the lease that we have been discussing with Dan Allen who has purchased the County Infirmary and would like to purchase the barns but we have agreed to lease it to him for 20 years. Our attorney Meeks has prepared this lease in agreement with Dan, I don't know if he has made any comments since he received a copy of the final.

Meeks said I talked to him but he hasn't told me.

Mike said as we discussed at our last meeting it does allow termination by either party on 12 months' notice and if we determine to terminate this agreement during the term of this lease then we agree to pay him a calculated fair market value of his improvements made and a calculated fair market value of potential profits lost. Which I think is a fair way to do that and I congratulate Meeks on the writing of this, it was artful.

Meeks said I would probably wait until after we get Dan's comments, just to make sure he doesn't have anything else.

Mike said for the record, I agree with the way it is written.

Tom made a motion to approve the lease as presented today. Gary second. All aye votes. Motion carried.

#### **Covid Test site employee agreement**

Mike said we have a Covid test site employee agreement, this is one of several we have approved. Basically, the independent contractor of the Health Department and is signed by the

contractor Cindy Fritz and has been signed by the Health Officer Ken Sowinski, I would entertain a motion to approve this agreement.

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

**2021 EDIT plan**

Meeks said I think you have some changes and I can have those ready for next meeting.

Mike said yes, we have the one for the City of Winchester.

Meeks said I will have the changes for you at the next meeting, it will be before the EDIT meeting.

**MOU – Usage of Farmland Water tower for Communications project**

Mike asked Meeks is this what you sent us?

Meeks said yes, that is what Farmland signed, we have been looking at for the last six or eight months.

Mike said basically we are going to lease space for free.

Chris Shaneyfelt said we will put a microwave up there and the necessary equipment to do repeating of VHF signals.

Mike asked who is their president?

Tom said Jim Main.

Mike said Jim signed in the wrong spot. I am just going to sign on top of it.

Gary made a motion to approve the memorandum of agreement and lease agreement for use of the Farmland water tower structure for new county wide P25 radio system. Tom seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

**Comp time**

Mike said I understand we don't have a comp time report.

Laura said no.

Mike said we do however have received three comp time request, Community Corrections has submitted some for approval, they were approved by the advisory board, probation submitted some for approval, they were approved by Judge Toney and the Veterans submitted one and it has no approval on there and I think we need to approve Cathy's comp time at this time. I looked at it, she is running that operation by herself now, she didn't call and ask for approval prior but she did submit the report and explain why it was needed and I think we all seen a copy of that. I would entertain a motion to approve Cathy Shull's comp time request.

Tom made a motion to approve Cathy Shull's comp time request. Gary seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Mike said with that being said what is the status of the Veteran's Service Officer?

Gary said I am just not getting far with setting up a time that is agreeable.

Mike said I guess I wouldn't know if he was that interested in the job.

Gary said we need to maybe next Tuesday have a discussion, maybe an executive session or something about that position or we can have an open session. Some of Mike Kennedy's suggestions that he has made to me about employment.

Mike said I don't know if that reaches the level of an executive session.

Meeks said it does not.

Mike said it does not, so do you want to put it on the agenda for next Tuesday?

Gary said yes.

Mike asked do you want Mike Kennedy here?

Gary said I can see if that will work out for him, if not he's discussed it with me.

Mike said we will put that on the agenda for next Tuesday.

### **Eastern Indiana Regional Planning Commission – Regional Housing Analysis**

Mike said the regional housing analysis and as an update, I presented this last meeting and I presented it that Wayne County was considering a housing analysis and they wanted us to contribute \$5,000.00 and it has become a little more formalized now and the company doing the housing study which I think I have shared a copy of it with you guys. They have indicated that they can do Wayne County's for \$18,500.00 and if an additional county in the Region participates they can do it for another \$3,500.00, if an additional county participates they can do for another \$3,500.00 and then three, four and five. So, if all counties participate, they can do all six counties for \$31,500.00. Eastern Indiana Regional Planning Commission has proposed that if Rush and Union want to participate they would contribute \$3000.00, Fayette and Randolph if we want to participate we would each contribute \$4,000.00 and Henry would contribute \$5,000.00 and this basically and that would leave \$12,500.00 for Wayne county and basically roughly based upon population which our dues are based upon population we come out a little more than what our dues are, but Henry and Union come out a lot more and it's a pretty equitable way to divide it out I thought. In addition, Eastern Indiana Regional Planning Commission has agreed to contribute out their own budget \$1,500.00 to each county who participates in the housing study, so we could get the housing study done for \$2,500.00 which is a lot less expensive than \$5,000.00, it doesn't answer the question of how important is that housing study going to be for

us. We have already got a private developer that we have supported to build a subdivision, the Mayor's got other ideas for additional subdivision. I don't know if we could get a developer outside of the county to come in here and speculate about developing. One of the things they did say the housing study would put you in a position to be able to say what are you going to have to invest to get a developer to come in here. I don't think Rush county is going to participate, which they indicated they were not because they had just done a housing study on their own, but I think the other four counties, Union is participating, Henry wants to and Fayette I believe will also and what happens if one of the counties drops out, Wayne Counties share goes up, so it doesn't change our contribution, ultimately our contribution would be \$2,500.00 to get a housing study done.

Tom said does this help with grant applications?

Mike said I couldn't answer that. One of the arguments made in our meeting last week and I think it was from a Union County Commissioner, his comment was we are mostly helping Wayne County because they need the housing study right now and his comment was, I'm okay doing that because a rising tide raises all boats. If the tide rises in Wayne County then, we as a region will rise as well. With that being said for me \$2,500.00 from our EDIT fund would be a worthwhile investment for this housing study.

Tom made a motion to approve doing the housing study. Gary seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Mike said did I give you a dues statement?

Laura said we got one by email.

Mike said we also need to make a Commissioner appointment to the Eastern Indiana Regional Planning Commission. I have been serving in that roll since the inception and I will agree to serve in that roll again if so choose to do that.

Tom made a motion to appoint Mike Wickersham to the Eastern Indiana Regional Planning Commission. Gary seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

#### **APC and BZA attendance report**

Mike said we have received the APC and BZA attendance report via email, do we have any appointments coming up this year?

Laura said we do, I figured you would do them at your first meeting in January, with the rest of your appointments.

Mike said are there any questions about the attendance reports. It looks like our two appointments are six out of six and five out of six.

Tom said I would consider making a change.

Mike asked are we restricted on who can appoint to that position?

Meeks said to the APC and the BZA?

Mike said to the BZA.

Meeks said I believe there are restrictions, I don't know what they are but I will find out.

Mike said if you would, because I was approached by somebody on the Area Planning indicating that they would like to serve on the BZA. I know the Area Planning Commission has an appointment from the BZA.

Tom said I think it is three from the Mayor, two from APC and one from Council and one from Commissioner's.

Meeks said I think they all just have to be County residents.

Tom said I think so, our appointee would be the one that would be on the BZA, I think we appoint either or we could appoint APC person on the BZA or another, I'm not sure about that.

Mike said if you could find that out for the BZA.

Laura said Randy had brought me some information on that and I will go ahead and forward that to you when I get back to the office, so you can have it ahead of time.

Mike said speaking of that, I did talk to Randy about and I am not sure how I ended up with all of these but I got back to the office and there were three copies of these and they are all the same, but he was going to reach out to the owner of the property and start a nuisance issue complaint with them, he was going to make contact.

Gary said verbal or written or what?

Mike said he was going to make verbal contact with the owner of the property. Then he will tell us the results.

### **Laura Martin**

#### **Cares Act funds for EMS**

Laura said first of all Duane Petry had sent out an email and I think you seen that on attesting to a payment that we received from the Cares Act for EMS of \$29,000.00 and he said if we need him to accept those funds or did you do that?

Mike said I signed a letter to accept.

Laura said he asked me about it and I did not have authority to go into this program to accept.

Mike said if it is something beyond what I have been provided and then I would say let him accept them. These are Cares Act funds \$29,773.55 and those are in addition to what we have already received.

Mike said we tabled the purchase of an ambulance last spring and I think he sent us an email regarding the mileage of the ambulances and I think that is probably something we ought to be considering this winter or spring, so we probably ought to start that process again.

Tom said what does that mean?

Mike said Duane going out and getting quotes and bids or renew the bids he got, I think he was pretty well set on what ambulance he wanted to buy. If you want I will reach out and ask him to pursue that.

Gary said I think we need to, maybe get that to us the first of the year.

### **Meeks Cockerill Contract**

Laura said I have Meeks contract for 2021.

Mike made a motion to approve the county attorney's employment contract as provided to us via email and presented today. Tom seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

### **Meeks Cockerill**

Meeks said I do have two easements, I have pictures here, the easements are for 800 S to straighten the roads, but I don't think we have the right legal description, so I hope to have them at your next meeting.

### **Gary Girton**

Gary said the north tower concrete is poured, it has been back filled and the south tower the concrete is poured and backfilled, the central tower the excavation is done as of Wednesday they were still short some rebar based on from what I talked to Pyramid, the contractor, I don't know whether they are based in Indiana that is making the rebar is having a real problem producing and delivering because of Covid, they only have one drive now covering the state. That is the reason they don't have the central site concrete poured and backfilled.

### **Mike Wickersham**

#### **National School Choice Week**

Mike said I have been receiving emails from a school choice group of the National School Choice Week and he is asking if we would want to declare January 24<sup>th</sup> through January 30<sup>th</sup> as School Choice week in Randolph County.

Tom said does that mean kids could not choose to go to school?

Mike said it basically gives us an opportunity to shine a positive spot light on the K-12 educational option available for children and families of Randolph County. Last year more than 550 Mayor's, Bob have you done this?



Bob said I have not.

Mike said and County leaders along with 27 Governor's, the unanimous United States Senate and the President issued proclamations recognizing National School Choice Week. National School Choice Week is entirely nonpolitical and nonpartisan and we do not advocate for or against any legislation our goal is to simply raise awareness among parents of the public and nonpublic K-12 education. I think they are aware and I'm not sure we need to proclaim that they be aware.

Tom said it would be a good way to get school superintendents to come up here.

Mike said we could pass this to Randolph United and let them give us a recommendation of whether they think we should do this or not. If anyone has a passion for school choice, I can forward this letter to you.

### **Airport Capital Improvement plan**

Mike said I attended a board meeting last Tuesday for the Airport Board and received a copy of the minutes after the meeting and also at that meeting received copy of the capital improvement plan for the airport for the year 2022 to 2026 and the airport is planning to begin a taxi lane construction in 2021 and 2022 and then in 2024 they are planning on building a T-hanger 6-unit new hanger out there. That's their plans to spend the FAA money. When that time comes for all these projects they will be coming to us in 2021 for a local match for engineering and environmental expenses, a local match of \$4,500.00 which is 5% of the cost, in 2022 taxi lane construction, \$14,000.00 which is 20% of the cost, 2023 will be there would not be any match and then 2024 the local match would be \$30,000.00 for the T6 Hanger. The report on the Phil Holiday hanger, it had a new jet sitting in it the day we met. At one point and time during Covid the airport board allowed the tenant some compensation in rent, reduced the rent because his business had dried up, but he kept the lease, the lease is back to full and they have a jet sitting out there.

Tom said does that rent come to the general fund?

Mike said I think it is treated as revenue of the airport and that rent goes into the general fund and then it is paid out in appropriations. Mike said I would encourage anybody to go out and take a look at that hanger.

### **Citizen Comments**

Kris Bilbrey said for those that care, do you guys say that next Tuesday is when you guys are going to quit kicking the VSO can down the road? Is that when you are going to decide?

Mike said we are going to discuss the VSO officer next Tuesday hopefully with the past VSO officer who has been part of our interview team.

Kris asked is there a reason that, that's been going on for five months?

Mike said I think the reason given was that we had a candidate who they are trying to arrange and interview with and has had difficulty finding a convenient time for the candidate and the interview team to meet.

Kris said do you hire anybody that comes into your business that won't sit down with you for 5-months?

Mike said we haven't hired him.

Kris said I know, I'm saying, in your personal business do you hire anybody that won't meet with you for 5-months?

Mike said that's really none of your business.

Kris said sure, do you think the veterans of this county deserve better?

Mike said I think at this point in time Cathy Shull is doing an excellent job.

Kris said as the secretary?

Mike said as the secretary and acting VSO officer. With the assistance of Delaware, Jay County and other resource she can call on.

Kris said when do you guys perceive hiring someone for that position?

Mike said we are going to talk about it next Tuesday, your welcome to come.



Kris said I will be here. It would probably be best advised to quit kicking the can down the road as soon as possible.

**Adjournment**

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

Reviewed and signed this 1 day of March, 2021.

RANDOLPH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



---

ATTEST:   
Laura J Martin, Auditor of Randolph County