

Randolph County Council

November 8, 2023

The Randolph County Council met for its regular meeting at 8:30 AM in the Commissioners and Council Room of the Courthouse with the following members present: Council President David Lenkensdofer, Tom Chalfant, Mike Stine, Tom Kerns, Todd Holaday, Missy Williams and Beverly Fields. Also present was County Auditor Laura J Martin.

Council President David Lenkensdofer presided.

Commissioner's update

Animal control Contract – Additional \$20,000.00

Dave said first item on the agenda is commissioners. I think Gary Girton is on board today.

Joe Copeland – Financial support letters for federal aid bridges

Dave said okay. I think the next thing we'll go to is Joe Copeland.

Joe Copeland said good morning. What I'm here today about is, it's time to turn in federal grant requests. It usually comes in November of each year. And this year, we're asking to do three bridges. So, I have copies. Three bridges and three separate letters. The state requires us to submit a financial commitment letter. And the commissioners usually sign that. But I need your approval too. So, what we did is we put together a support letter for the three projects for your signatures if you agree to it. And then we'll submit by the, it's due by the end of the month. So, the three bridges are, the first one is bridge 212. It's in Union City, it's there by the park. There's a cemetery on one side. And it's getting in pretty bad shape.

Dave said so, let me ask you a question on that. Which side of the park is that on, the north side or south side?

Joe Copeland said south side.

Dave said okay. That's the Union City Pike?

Joe Copeland said yes.

Tom Chalfant said that's a rated, the bridge is rated now, right?

Dave said why I asked, the north side was replaced within the last 20 years.

Joe Copeland said really?

Dave said I was commissioner when we replaced that north side.

Joe Copeland said the sidewalk on there is in really bad shape.

Dave said you're talking the south side?

Joe Copeland said yeah. Yeah, I think the sidewalk is on the north side of the bridge.

Dave said okay.

Joe Copeland said but the bridge is on the south side of the park, Union City Pike.

Dave said that's Union City Pike. 250 north is the next road over. How I know, I live right off of 250 North. So, I didn't know if the document is correct here or not.

Joe Copeland said well, here's the problem. If INDOT has it as 250 North, we've got to continue to put it as 250 North, or they'll throw it out the window. So, we have to follow them on what they, and the inspection report has 250, so.

Dave said so, do we have two 250 Norths?

Joe Copeland said no. There's errors in.

Dave said I think the other one is a federal aid bridge too.

Joe Copeland said there're errors in some of the state's mapping. So, that's what, I found some before.

Tom Chalfant just want to tear out the right bridge when the time comes.

Joe Copeland said well I know this one needs torn down, I can tell you.

Dave said yeah, om the south side it does. The north side, it meets the 20-ton limit I think.

Joe Copeland said yeah, it's the south bridge. And then the second one is bridge 114 on 300 South, over by 1000 West. And it's a steel truss. It's a historic, what they call a historic non-select. And we've done our homework already on that one. And then the last one is bridge 284, on 750 West, south of 100 South. It's currently closed, that bridge is. The state allows us to put a prioritization to which bridge we do. Number one will be 212, in Union City. Number two will be bridge 114 on 300 South, and the third will be 284.

Tom Chalfant said when would be expect 284 to get done?

Joe Copeland said if we got the money, I'm thinking 29 or 30, I believe. The state's been very, last, it's all mixed up. I wish they would get their act together.

Tom Chalfant said you've been saying that for 4 years.

Joe Copeland said yeah, I know. But last year we submitted for what they call fiscal year 28 funding, okay. So, we submitted it, and low and behold, they come back and said okay we'll give you the money for your project, but we're moving your construction date to 29, even though they said 28, they moved it back to 29. The said there's not enough money. So, in the local call the letter that went out for this particular federal aid grant, on one portion it says fiscal year 28, we had to make a phone call. Well, that

was a mistake. So, he wouldn't give us a direct answer, so we're figuring if last year was 29, then we're figuring this year's 30. And that's the way we're proceeding. Now, if we can move it up in the, on a letting to go to construction, we will ask for it and see if the money's available. I don't think they know what kind of money is going to be coming in. I really don't.

Dave said I'm sure that's right.

Joe Copeland said yeah.

Dave said for example, bridge 212, by year 2030, we have to have \$700,000 committed for that bridge?

Joe Copeland said yeah. It comes in, it'll come in a little bit of a time like this shows, because we'll have design, we pay the design fees to the consultant, and then we ask for reimbursement. It's all 80%, every bit of it.

Dave said so, that bridge is going to cost approximately 3.5 million, is that what this is saying?

Joe Copeland said this is an estimate, based on, they expected, well, they added 5% inflation per year. And the way things have been going, it's terrible. So, they've upped it. That's been some of INDOT's problems is they'll estimate a job and it'll come in much higher than what they had estimated.

Dave said I'll share with you outside here a story about historical landmarks and INDOT that I got into with them years ago, same thing.

Joe Copeland said yeah, you get into historical bridges, and I've done, I've been a part of two. I come in working for Hancock and there's a 200-foot steel truss. And it was already designed pretty much. And I was on that one, but there was another one. It was an iron truss, and we were able to do it. And I'm going to be honest. It's who you know to get those through there. And if you use the right fellow, the right people, it'll go smooth as silk. But if you don't, you're going to run into trouble.

Dave said and you have to use the right wording because evidently, I didn't, because what was happening, we were going 8 to 10 years a bridge not being done through those programs. I said you guys are holding us hostage is what you're doing. That was the end of the meeting. It was over with. And we never did get that bridge done.

Joe Copeland said that doesn't surprise me. But yeah, it all depends on who you know.

Dave said yep, you're right. Okay, so this is just for information only today or did we need to make a commitment?

Joe Copeland said I would like to have a commitment because you don't meet until December, so, I have to submit this before.

Tom Chalfant said I would move that we make a financial commitment for these three bridges to go forward.

Bev seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Joe Copeland said thank you. There is one other thing I might mention. I was before the commissioners Monday and I'm asking to, if I could go part-time after the first of the year. I'll be 67 this month. It's time to cut back a little bit.

Dave said okay.

Joe Copeland said so, that's something else that, and I've talked with Henry. Henry County commissioners, two of them are okay. I haven't had a chance to talk to the third. And I have not had a chance to talk to the council. I did talk to the council president. So, I thought I would do one day here, one day there, and then the third day, I would split wherever I needed to be, whatever I needed to catch up on. So, I would be working probably 2 to 3 days a week.

Tom Chalfant said it still wouldn't be much different than what you're doing now.

Joe Copeland said correct.

Tom Chalfant said we'd just lose that perk from the state.

Joe Copeland said and then you won't have to pay my, since I'm part-time, you don't have to pay my health insurance or any of that.

Tom Chalfant said a vehicle, how would you handle that?

Joe Copeland said I'm, Mike yesterday asked me if I would talk to Henry County about some reimbursement in using the vehicle I'm using now from Randolph and get some reimbursement from them for the use of the vehicle.

Dave said well that seems okay to me. Anything else Joe, for us?

Joe Copeland said that's it. Thank you very much.

Dave said thanks.

Art Moystner, Randolph County Sheriff – Quote for update to Spillman

Dave said okay. Looks like Art, you're up next.

Art Moystner said there were a couple things that I emailed about. I guess, I would like to start with the one that I think is important at this point in time, is I'd approached the commissioners on Monday about possibly doing a comp time payout to try to fill some holes in the schedule at the sheriff's office. With the incident we had to weeks ago, we have two officers that are off. So, Chief Hendrickson has done a great job of filling those holes but there are some of those that there are days we don't have the appropriate coverage to be able to keep two officers out. And to switch some of it, we would only have one officer on two separate shifts, trying to pull people around. So, what I'm ask you for is what I asked them for was the ability to ask for volunteers to work additional shifts from within our department, and pay them at a time and a half rate for that. We would put it in as a scheduled overtime. Once it goes into leave banks, I can report back what that figure is going to be, to the auditor's office, and have that supplemented onto their check.

Dave said how did they end that yesterday at the commissioner's meeting?

Art Moystner said the commissioners passed it.

Laura said for a month, yeah.

Art Moystner said for a month.

Dave said for thirty days.

Art Moystner said correct. It goes from, I believe, November 8th to December 2nd or 3rd. It's the Sunday night before the Monday Commissioners meeting in December.

Dave said now you said time and a half?

Art Moystner said yes sir.

Dave said that's over 40, time and a half over 40?

Art Moystner said no, it would be time and a half for that shift. They're giving up a day off.

Dave said okay. How's that work, Meeks?

Meeks said we'd have to figure, when Art presented it to the commissioners, I had told one of the commissioners I'd have to look into it to see how that works.

Dave said okay.

Meeks said I'm not quite sure.

Art Moystner said because the cost per shift would be \$264.24 I believe.

Meeks said I just don't know how that works with their shift in the overtime, and like, you know, you can only work so many hours.

Dave said yeah, you've got to be careful.

Meeks said overtime hours.

Dave said the national labor relations.

Meeks said that's what I told Gary.

Dave said it specifies what can and can't be done. I don't know for sure.

Art Moystner said I guess I'm not understanding which part of that, what are we referring to, whether you can pay it?

Dave said your guys aren't on a 40-hour week, right?

Art Moystner said they're on a 4 and 2 schedule. Sometimes, they do work 40. Other times, they're short.

Meeks said under a 4 to 2 schedule, the national labor relations, well, FSLA right, Fair Standard Labor Act, says that you can only work so much, and then you have to get compensatory compensation.

Tom Chalfant said you just have to be careful that.

Meeks said I know what a 40 hour, I know what a 40-hour week is.

Art Moystner said I guess I've never seen that statute. I would be interested to see how that reads, because I've never seen anything like that before.

Meeks said I was actually going to talk to Laura afterwards. I have a note, because once it all came up and you guys were closed yesterday, and I just don't know what the FSLA says about your shift. I know what it says about a 40-hour week, it says about a 40-hour week, after you work so many hours you get compensatory, mandatory overtime. Or, you get paid for that. I just don't know what it is with the, I don't know if there's a different statute about emergency services.

Art Moystner said well the statute with emergency services doesn't have anything other than the fact that you go to.

Meeks said well I know, I don't know.

Art Moystner said you go to the 4/80.

Meeks said yeah. I don't, yeah, so, I really need to get with Laura, then I was going to make some calls and see if that's okay.

Dave said I'm okay with it as long as it legally can be done.

Meeks said it's the mandatory overtime that I don't know for sure.

Tom Chalfant said you wouldn't have the same deputy to do it all the shifts. If you spread it out.

Art Moystner said I've never heard of that.

Meeks said it might not be an issue. I don't know.

Art Moystner said well, and I guess my, my curiosity is the question that they're going to have too many hours, because you're talking over the next three weeks, possibly 15 to 18 shifts at most. And I can't imagine it being that many.

Todd said well it's more about making sure we're not breaking the law with overtime, getting into trouble.

Laura said any time and a half if it's less than 40, or less than.

Todd said so this has got to be worked out so that it's.

Laura said that was my concern when the passed that Monday.

Meeks said you were thinking the same thing I was thinking.

Laura said exactly.

Dave said see let's see what we can find out Art.

Art Moystner said well and I guess, I guess one of the things I would bring up with that that's a concern for me is if I have a guy that takes a comp day on Monday and volunteers to work a shift for us, by the way the system calculates that, he's going to lose that 8 hours and it's not time and a half at that point in time anyway. Why would they work it?

Meeks said it only becomes time and a half after you've actually worked that amount. I do know that rule. You have to work the hours and then after that, then it's the time and a half, in overtime. I can't take a vacation day on Monday and say I get 8 hours, then work the next four days, and get 40 hours, then work Saturday and work 8 hours, because I didn't work that first 8 hours on Friday. I do not get overtime on Saturday until I've actually worked the 40 hours. Have to work. We've had that discussion ad nauseam, haven't we, Laura?

Laura said yes.

Chris Shaneyfelt said I don't think that the precinct manager counts it that way though.

Meeks said I don't know how they count so.

Chris Shaneyfelt said if we take days off, it still, they'll tell you, you still have to count for the time off, because they're getting paid for that day off.

Meeks said well you get paid for it, but you haven't worked it, so you don't get time and a half until after you've worked the 40 hours.

Chris Shaneyfelt said I understand. I'm just relating what the precinct manager does.

Dave said so you're going to check into that for us Meeks, then?

Meeks said I was going to talk to Laura after the meeting and make some calls.

Dave said I guess we can still go back to what the commissioners did yesterday about the 30 days and approved that for funding, to make sure we had the funding for that 30 days.

Tom Kerns said I think we said, did we set a dollar amount, a maximum dollar amount for those 30 days?

Dave said I think Art was saying up to \$10,000, isn't that correct?

Art Moystner said that's what I had requested. And understand, when I'd first started doing this, the information we had at the time, was we didn't have a re-evaluation date. I was trying to get some things in place in case this went to January 1. So, at this point, with the commissioners doing what they've done yes, it would be well under \$10,000. But that's the amount that I had sent you figuring up through that.

Dave said okay. Now we can only go to what the commissioners on the time frame, but we can do the \$10,000 if we so choose to do that.

Tom Kerns said I'll make a motion we approve paying out the extra shifts for up to \$10,000.00 for the time period, as long as we're following labor laws.

Mike said I'll second.

Dave said it's been moved and seconded, we go ahead and approve up to \$10,000.00 for additional shifts, for the dates of November 8th through the 2nd or 3rd, is that correct?

Art Moystner said I think it's the Sunday before the commissioners' meeting. So, I think it's the 3rd.

Tom Kerns said the 3rd.

All aye votes. Motion carried.

Art Moystner said the other question that I had for council is I'm looking at a Spillman upgrade. The Spillman upgrade itself, I'd ask the commissioners about on Monday, they had tabled it until their December meeting. There are some other figures they are wanting. But I wanted to also inform the council if we move forward with this, I would need the council to support adding additional funding into the maintenance of our budget every year. And the figures that Spillman has given me is you're looking at about a \$2,800.00 increase per year on our maintenance that we pay currently to Spillman. I think it's a very worthwhile program that puts mobile cad out in the car, gives the officers some abilities to do a lot more from their vehicle without having to run through dispatch on everything. It puts in place that if they were to get someone that's wanted on a warrant, there's, if they would scan that for a warning or a citation, of whatever the case would be, it would put out an alert through the system that they're out with a wanted subject. So, any other officers that are on the system would hear that, be able to see what exactly that warrant was for, and respond to their area if appropriate. It's also the first piece of a building block that if we wanted to put in license plate readers or anything like that into our vehicles, which we already have a camera that does that. We just don't have the software. But this is the first piece, because it ties us into the state and criminal system's, or state and national system for criminal driver's license, things of that nature.

Tom Chalfant said you said \$2,800.00 per year or is that just a one-time fee?

Art Moystner said that's per year. It would increase our maintenance \$2,800 per year.

Tom Chalfant said and every year it would go up \$2,800?

Art Moystner said no, every year it would be that same \$2,800 unless they do an increase.

Tom Chalfant said how long is the last, when was the last update with Spillman?

Art Moystner said we've had Spillman since 1997.

Tom Chalfant said but how many times have they increased that fee?

Chris Shaneyfelt said every time you buy a new module it increases.

Art Moystner said beyond that, the standard maintenance fee has kind of stayed very consistent.

Todd said what is cad?

Art Moystner said it's the computer aided dispatch. And it would give us voiceless cad so things could be sent back and forth over the computer without having to utilize the radio at times. It would give the officers the ability to run license plated, drivers' license, warrant checks, things of that nature out in the car. It would interface and tie some of the systems together, so that when you scan a traffic warning or traffic citation into the state E-ticket system, it would automatically put it into our local Spillman system.

Right now, we put the ticket in and then the officer has to go back and enter it into Spillman on his own, so we're duplicating a lot of work.

Dave said so, you don't need it this year, it's really for 2024, is that correct?

Art Moystner said it's probably going to take them until 2024 to do that and implement that. And the initial cost, you would not have an increase into maintenance, because it's a part of that quote to put the system in. So, we wouldn't actually start seeing that until 2025. We would just need to budget that in.

Dave said I think it's critical that we support that, because it's, I've been around Spillman from day one, I think, as commissioner, it's been very useful. So, my advice is to make sure we have it in next year's budget to move it forward, but I don't know how the other people here think. Are you guys okay with that, add to the budget, 2024? Okay. Anything else?

Art Moystner said the only other thing I'd like to put on your radar was I brought to the commissioners' attention, there was a list of items I had talked about looking at for prices with ARPA funding, because I know we have to have, next year we have to have it accounted for, then spent within a year or two of that. One of the things I was looking at, given recent events, is extending our Axon camera package for an additional 5 years. They've sent that back to me, one of the commissioners commented that he thinks that's something we need to start looking at as a budget item. So, what I would like to do is send you guys a copy of the quote that they've sent that you can see what the yearly budget would be for that. I'm not sure if the commissioners are going to move forward to pay for an additional 5 years out of ARPA funding or not, but I think it's something to move into the future. They're probably correct, at some point, it's going to have to become a budgeting issue. So, I just want to make you guys aware, and aware of what that cost is going to be on that, you know. And obviously, trying to set that up for when I'm gone because I believe our current contract runs until about a month or a month and a half before my term ends. So, it'll set it up for the county for the future.

Dave said and, you know, it probably should go into a budgetary item. ARPA monies are only, ARPA monies are only, we have to have it dedicated by 2024, December and spent by December of 2026.

Art Moystner said and part of the reason I looked at this is because my contact person at Axon that I deal with over the last two years, Axon has gone up 25%. And I think by the time we need to do it again in 2026, it's going to go up more than an additional 25%. So, it would secure us up out through the year 2031. That's a decision you guys have got to make.

Dave said okay. Anything else, Art?

Art Moystner said that's all I have unless you have questions for me.

Missy said I was wanting to do a walk through again, who do I contact to do it.

Art Moystner said just text me. If I don't answer you, if you would text Chief Hendrickson, either one of us would be more than happy to walk you through that building.

Missy said yeah, I just need to learn more about it.

Art Moystner said yep. Either one of us. So, if we're around, if I'm there, I'd be happy to. If I'm not there, I'm sure the chief would take you through there gladly.

Missy said Marla is gone, right?

Art Moystner said Marla is there.

Missy said she is, okay. Yeah.

Art Moystner said and if we're both out, she would do it, I'm sure.

Missy said yeah, she took me the last one, so that would be great. Either way. It doesn't matter. It just helps me.

Art Moystner said absolutely. I'd welcome any of you to come over. And I will continue when I'm emailing the commissioners about some of the items we're looking at for ARPA in the building. I'll keep you guys in that loop also to show you how we're moving forward.

Dave said alright.

Missy said I have one more question. Maybe this isn't the place for it. So, obviously, I don't have a scanner, but so, people who have a scanner and they hear where you guys are heading to, they can come there and is the 25 feet set back, is it, I know you're enforcing it, but, just give me an update on it, why that's not being enforced everywhere.

Art Moystner said there's current litigation on that specific law, as to whether it's going to go into place or not. And there's some interpretation with that law, that if we're going to make an arrest, we want to make sure we're right. So, I know myself and the chief are watching some of the litigation with regards to that, because that law is already being challenged.

Dave said and that's down in Indianapolis, right?

Art Moystner said I believe so, yes.

Dave said yeah, I've been following it a little bit.

Missy said well if somebody come to a crime scene where there's been a death, and want to take photos or videos of the scene, maybe with the deceased.

Art Moystner said and we try very hard to balance out the first amendment right of individuals, and integrity of our crime scene, and also protecting the victim and the family of anything tragic that has happened.

Missy said I just wondered.

Art Moystner said and we can talk more when you're in the office if you'd like.

Dave said okay.

Art Moystner said thank you.

Dave said thanks for coming in Art.

Sherri Thompson – Health Department new nurse's position

Dave said okay, Sherri Thompson will not be here today. They don't have their budget, is that correct?

Laura said they haven't turned in an additional appropriation for that yet.

Chris Shaneyfelt- Emergency management grant application

Dave said okay, Chris.

Chris Shaneyfelt said good morning. So, the big reason I'm here is just for the grant application I did for salary reimbursement for the 2023 year. That application is done and then sent to the state, so I just need your approval. The dollar amount is \$18,000, is where we're capped at. The state with this funding, began capping the funds based on population instead of just paying 50%. So, with our population, size, the most we can get is \$18,000 for a position.

Dave said so this is for a salary reimbursement?

Chris Shaneyfelt said right. It'll be for the 2023 year, so we'll get it before June of 24.

Dave said okay. Any questions for Chris on this? If not, I'd entertain a motion to move this grant application forward.

Tom Chalfant made motion to approve. Mike seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Dave said Okay, what else do you have Chris?

Chris Shaneyfelt said the forms that I provided you guys this morning is just our current comp hours as of the morning of 11/6 that I took to the commissioners. The commissioners agreed to pay everyone ½ of their accumulated comp that's on the list, and then continuing to review it after that. Is that correct?

Laura said they're going to look at it every two weeks at their meetings, then tell us what they need.

Chris Shaneyfelt said every two weeks, okay. So, and then I spoke with them about one of my employees that's not been able to get out. We haven't been able to get her out for her vacations, and that's employee 803. She had vacation that she was unable to expend from the 2022 through 2023 year, which her hire date was in November. So, she just got new vacation. But it's not fair to her to lose her vacation that we couldn't get her out on because of our staffing shortages. So, I asked the commissioners if they would pay her out as well, for that, whatever she has that's not expended from 22-23. And they agreed to do that as well.

Todd said is there a reason why we wouldn't want to get all the comp time paid out by the end of the year?

Chris Shaneyfelt said I was going to say, that's going to be a big expense, I would think, more than your \$30,000.

Todd said it'll be bigger next year when their pay rate goes up. It's going to be paid sometime, right?

Dave said that's a good point, Todd. Maybe that's something the salary committee can talk about.

Laura said normally, it's take the time off. We don't pay it out.

Todd said right.

Laura said but if they don't get the time off, then they come and request the payout. So, occasionally, we pay it out. This is kind of an extenuating circumstance here.

Chris Shaneyfelt said typically, we've not had this issue, but it's since April it's been an issue, and it's, like I was explaining to Laura this morning, I had another employee turn in a two-week notice this morning. So, I'm still going to be down two full-time employees.

Todd said so the pattern continues growing the comp time, in not being able to find people to fill the positions, right?

Chris Shaneyfelt said correct.

Todd said so if the pattern is going to continue, there's no reason not to pay off the comp time at the 2023 rate versus paying, because there's a significant increase in the comp rate of 2024 to try to attract and retain this group of people. And these hours were worked, are going to build up, and under the comp rate of 2023. So, I personally, it's just in my opinion, I think we should think of it as trying to get it down as low as possible by the end of the year. 2024, I don't really, it's going to go back up probably. Obviously, we should be trying to, and you are trying to avoid this.

Chris Shaneyfelt said very much so. It's not working out very well.

Dave said so, have you been advertising for employees?

Chris Shaneyfelt said yeah, well, when you say advertising, I mean, I don't have an advertising budget to put it in the newspaper, but we put it on face book and we've been, we sent it to Randolph Economic and the group over here that does, Chamber of Commerce.

Dave said have you done Indeed?

Chris Shaneyfelt said we have done Indeed, but the one time that we did Indeed, we got 80 some odd applications, and like 2 people came to actually do it. Plus, most of them are just doing it to get their unemployment. They have no desire to. We have tried Indeed. We've basically done better with face book and social media than Indeed.

Dave said hopefully, with the increases they gave here for next year, maybe be more attractive.

Chris Shaneyfelt said yeah, maybe. I'm hoping.

Dave said so okay, I guess we need our approval for what the commissioners agreed to yesterday on paying the comp down by ½. You guys agree with that?

Todd made motion to approve. Missy seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Dave said okay. Anything else, Chris, for us?

Chris Shaneyfelt no. Thank you.

Other Business:

\$250,000 from windfarm to rainy day

Dave said okay, I guess we're down to other business. I went to the county commissioners here about 3 weeks ago, 4 weeks ago and asked them about taking \$250,000.00 from the Windfarm monies to match our General fund to Rainy Day. They put it on hold that day and asked me to come back to this group to get our opinion, if we would like to do that from the Windfarm monies to match the grant, or the General fund for Rainy Day.

Tom Chalfant said I guess I thought we sent you to do that, with our permission to do that.

Dave said we did, but we never approved this here as a body.

Laura said you have to vote on it.

Dave said it's just a vote.

Tom Kerns said I'll make a motion to approve \$250,000.00 from Windfarm to Rainy Day.

Mike said I'll second.

Dave said it's been moved and a second that we approve \$250,000.00 from Windfarm monies to match the General fund monies for, to go to Rainy Day. All in favor?

All aye votes. Motion carried.

Budget Ordinance 2023-21

Mike said okay, next thing up, we have budget ordinance 2023-21. So, I guess we need to go through the ordinance process to approve the budget.

Bev said I move that council pass the ordinance 2023-21 after the first reading.

Tom Kerns said second.

Dave said it's been moved and second, we approve budget ordinance 2023-21 after first reading. All in favor.

All aye votes. Motion carried.

Bev said I move that the rules be suspended and have the second and third reading by title only and adopted the same day, 2023-21.

Tom Kerns seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Bev said I move the council adopt ordinance 2023-21.

Missy seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Salary Ordinance 2023-23

Todd said I have a question about the salary ordinance. The ordinance, itself, contains the salaries that are built into the ordinance we just approved, right?

Laura said yes.

Todd said it's not something in addition to?

Laura said no.

Todd said just clarification of what those individual pay rates are for each position?

Dave said correct.

Laura said and actually, this is what we need to approve at the budget hearing, so we will have a couple of amendments to do before, at your next meeting, for the health department where you made the change, and then we'll have to do one for Joe Copeland. He's not on our salary ordinance currently and with him going to part-time, he will be added.

Dave said okay, the next item we have on our list is the salary ordinance for 2024, ordinance 2023-23. Entertain a motion to approve.

Bev said I move that the council pass salary ordinance 2023-23 after the first reading.

Missy seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Bev said I move that the rules be suspended and have the second and third reading by title only, and adopted the same day.

Missy seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Bev said I move that council adopt salary ordinance 2023-23.

Missy seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Meeks – transfer of real estate to camp

Dave said Meeks?

Meeks said just to let you guys know that there's going to be a public hearing on, we're talking about the Camp Yale property. At the first commissioner meeting in December. And the commissioners are, I thought somebody was going to be here to tell you guys, so, I'll do my best. They're going to transfer that to Open Arms Ministry, which is the camp that went out there last summer, under pretty much the same terms and conditions that they transferred it to Camp Yale on, originally, back 15, 18, 20 years ago, whenever. In essence, there's going to be a deed restriction on that says can't get a mortgage, can't put, or lien or any other lien on that property, and you have to use it for, and I have the clause here, education, for a learning environment in outdoor camp for educational and religious purposes, so long as the above real estate is not encumbered by any other liens, and not used for any other purpose. And if it is, then it reverts back to the county. So, Open Arms is still trying to get a survey of that property, so we're kind of waiting on that. The commissioners extended the lease for two more months, so, that the end of December. So, you folks have to approve it because it's disposal of real estate with a value of over \$50,000 bucks. So, at your next meeting, there will be a resolution to do that. If anybody has any questions about it, I think you can certainly ask me and I'll try to answer it or, you know, wish Gary was here because I thought he was coming to talk about it. So, that would be at your last meeting. If you have any questions about that, let me know. I plan on sending out the contract. I have the contract ready. I

was planning on sending that out after the church sees it. Hate to send it out and then the church has an issue with some provision

Tom Kerns said they can't sell it in anyway, correct?

Meeks said if they did transfer, it would be to another organization for the express purposes of.

Tom Kerns said would the commissioners have to approve that?

Meeks said no, but that runs with the land. That language about no liens, has to be used for an outdoor camp and has to be used for you know, educational purposes, will stick with that property. So, if they sell it to a developer and they want to put houses out there, too bad. They won't be able to do that.

Tom Kerns said I was just thinking of other organizations that do educational stuff, with values are a little extreme.

Meeks said I suppose if they found somebody else that would do that, but there's no restriction that goes back at this point. If that's something that you guys want or the commissioners want, we can say we have the first right of refusal, I suppose, at that point.

Tom Chalfant said might be safe, because 20, 30, 40 years from now.

Missy said was that property ever appraised?

Meeks said well, if it was, it's been a while.

Missy said but no recent appraisal on it?

Meeks said I would say that it has been appraised.

Tom Chalfant said it's maybe 4 or 5 years ago.

Meeks said yeah, it hasn't been very recently. It hasn't been within the last, it could have been, you know, I don't even think, when we got it back, it was not appraised. But, since we've had it, it's not.

Todd said we're transferring it to this group at no cost, right, at no cost?

Meeks said yeah, they're, just whatever the cost to transfer would be, they're picking up all costs. We're not paying anything.

Todd said they shouldn't be able to transfer the, shouldn't be able to sell that property?

Meeks said yeah, the restriction would probably prohibit a sale. But we can put a first right of refusal on there. And I think it might.

Missy said does that mean they're going to try and sell it back to us when they didn't purchase it? They could turn and say, well, and sell it, here's the asking price.

Meeks said well if they did sell it, then we have that restriction in there. They'll have, there are some, there are about 10 tax liens on there too, from the first people that owned it. So, they'll have a really

tough time selling it with the tax lien on it for the next 7 years. So, we're trying to clear the title to that. It was before Camp Yale.

Tom Chalfant said it was two gentlemen wasn't it?

Meeks said yeah, I'm trying to remember the name. I'll remember it. It was Casa Inc., I think. And they, either Casa Inc. or Camp Yale, Inc., looks like, hold on, Randolph County Casa Incorporated have some Indiana tax liens that are going to be good until 2030. So, even if you wanted to sell it, you're going to have a really tough time clearing those things.

Dave said I would think we'd want something in there saying that they cannot sell it, that it reverts back to Randolph County.

Missy said right.

Meeks said it reverts back to Randolph County once it's not used for that learning environment, but we can also say if they transfer it, they'd have to transfer it to us for first right of refusal, or something.

Missy said and liability insurance, are they going to be required to provide us what their liability insurance is?

Meeks said that's all, no, that's all on them. They own it. We don't require anybody else to cover us because that will be transferred to them.

Missy said it would sure be nice just to see their insurance, I mean, if somebody drowned in that pond out there.

Meeks said they cannot come back on us.

Missy said but if they can't come back on us, then.

Meeks said that deed restriction will always be there. Even if somebody drowns gets a 2 million dollar judgment, they can't sell that real estate.

Missy said yeah, but if they don't have insurance, let's say they don't have insurance. They say they do, they don't, they don't have to prove it.

Meeks said the insurance wouldn't, I mean, they have insurance up under the lease, require insurance.

Missy said and they've shown it to you? I mean they actually showed the paperwork, I have this insurance.

Meeks said I don't have it in my file but, they are required to have it. Do they, I don't know if they've provided it to the auditor. But I don't have it in my file. But they are provided to, have fire, extended coverage, bodily injury, property insurance, business interruption insurance. But the insurance wouldn't really matter, because they're going to have it, they're going to own it. So, if somebody gets hurt, and they don't have insurance, they get a huge judgment against them, this is really not an asset because they can't transfer it to anybody. If they'd go bankrupt and then we get it is basically, what happens.

Dave said but they can sue us.

Meeks said how would they be able to sue us?

Dave said just like all those other frivolous cases.

Meeks said well it would be frivolous. We would be able to kick it out. I guess we can't do anything then if they can sue us. I will let the commissioners know you want to add first right of refusal on that, and I'll draw something up and get in on the contract.

Missy said can you put in there first right of refusal at the same price in which it was given to them?

Meeks said well that's what I have.

Missy said yeah. In other words, we'd get it back from them?

Meeks said I just had, what we usually say at our cost.

Dave said okay. Anything else, Meeks, on that?

Meeks said on that one, no. Again, you'll have the resolution and once they approve the contract, I'll send it to Laura and ask her to send it out to everybody.

Dave said thanks.

BZA/APC attendance report

Dave said you guys got your BZA/APC attendance report?

Children's Advocate grant application

Dave said Children's advocate grant application.

Missy said I have just one question I have on this. I understand the amount requested, and then of course, that's the matching grant, then the capacity building grant part of it, and county match that says yes, where is that county match coming from? It says \$21,000.00 on the amount of match. Is that coming from the children's advocate? I know they always did.

Laura said that's their budget.

Dave said the amount requested for the grant is \$20,754.00, \$8,770 for capacity building. So, actually, they're asking for, if you read that, it's over \$29,000.

Laura said yes, for the grant and 21 for the match which we already budgeted for.

Dave said totals, be \$29,224.00 amount requested. So, that's what we're approving today. I'd entertain a motion.

Missy made motion to approve. Bev seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Additional Appropriations

Commissioner's Comp Payout	\$30,000.00
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Dave said the thing we're going to, additional appropriations, commissioner's comp payout of 30,000.00.

Todd said is that another one we just approved?

Laura said so, this is the appropriating the funds to pay those, yeah. They already created that line. This is putting the money into there so we can pay that out.

Todd made motion to approve. Tom Kerns seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Airport fuel **\$20,000.00**

Todd said on airport fuel, they sell that and make a profit on that don't they, or is that fuel that?

Dave said they do.

Tom Kerns said so it all comes right back in County General.

Todd said so we're making additional appropriations just because they sold more fuel than then thought they were going to sell?

Laura said yeah, I think a couple years, we cut that budget line, and they just need to come back and ask when we meet again.

Dave said but didn't for 2024 budget, we approve additional monies for that?

Laura said we might have raised it back up.

Tom Kerns said for that to be in their budget, then it all reverts back, it all comes back in so, basically, we're not spending money with that.

Todd made motion to approve. Mike seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Courthouse Utilities **\$10,000.00**
RCFFO Utilities **\$15,000.00**

Dave said I'm going to put both of these together, utilities for the courthouse, Randolph County Family opportunities building. Additional, courthouse for \$10,000. The other building is \$15,000.

Missy made motion to approve. Mike seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

R.C. Tourism Professional Svc **\$12,500.00**
R.C. Tourism Advertising **\$3,380.00**

Dave said okay, the next two we have is the Randolph County Tourism professional service \$12,500 and Randolph County Tourism advertising, \$3,380.00. The \$12,500 is for 2023. I do know they have requested additional for 2024 of \$12,500. We'll discuss that when it comes before us. Entertain a motion.

Tom Kerns made motion to approve. Bev seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Building Maintenance **\$10,000.00**

Dave said building maintenance. I assume at the jail \$10,000.

Bev made motion to approve. Missy seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Public Safety Gas/Oil **\$30,000.00**

Dave said public safety gas/oil, \$30,000.00.

Mike made motion to approve. Tom Kerns seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Children's Advocate **\$4,300.00**

Dave said next is additional appropriation for children's advocate of \$4,300.00. Looks like it's for part-time employees.

Bev made motion to approve. Missy seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Windfarm **\$51,500.00**

Dave said and the last one I have is additional appropriations from Windfarm. This is for the town of Parker City. It's for their park funding that they approved here last month.

Missy made motion to approve. Bev seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Mike Wickersham -Animal Control contract

Dave said Mike, do you have anything for us today?

Mike Wickersham said I do have, yes.

Dave said want to come on up.

Mike Wickersham said unless you've already decided on the animal control contract. The first item on the agenda.

Dave said we have not.

Mike Wickersham said well that's what I'm here to discuss was, as you know, we entered into an agreement with the city of Winchester with their animal shelter and have had an agreement with them for the last three years when they took over the Hendrickson operation. And I think the central location, and the nature of that animal shelter has been a benefit to the county, and obviously, a benefit to the city of Winchester, but a true benefit to the county. Their expenses have gone up, some by regulatory reasons, some by just the nature of the business, and they're proposing that our contract increase by \$20,000.00 this year. And we agreed that their expenses and the added expenses are necessary, and we've agreed to enter that contract subject to having the funding. Our budget only had the \$45,000.00 in it, is what we requested for budget purposes. So, if we're going to enter the contract, I'm hoping we can get an additional appropriation of \$20,000.00 for that. That's what the request is for.

Tom Chalfant said do you get to see the operating budget?

Mike Wickersham said no, but Bob shared with us the cost of each animal and what it cost to pick them up, what it cost to house them, the shots they have to give them, and other expenses. So, we don't see the budget. I don't think you shared what the animal control officer gets paid.

Mayor McCoy said I think I shared that all initially with you guys. And I take a portion out of loit.

Mike Wickersham said you did, okay. We saw enough of it to be comfortable that the city wasn't sticking it to us, I guess is the best way I would say that. Again, I think it's a quality shelter. It's centrally located. Now, one of the things the contract is excluding, which Parker City, Farmland, if they want Winchester to house their animals, they're going to have to enter a separate agreement with Winchester. But for the animals that are generally in the county, then our department can call on the shelter to pick them up at business hours and they'll go up and pick them up.

Tom Chalfant said when Mel Botkin and Dale Hendrickson ran it for us, did they take care of all the county, cities, towns, or just rural?

Mike Wickersham said I think they did, but I think they did and I think they probably took care of a lot of Delaware County too, just because of where they were located. But I'm not sure they were as responsive as the City of Winchester is to our officers.

Tom Chalfant said Melvin's location was the most central location we've had.

Mike Wickersham said well that was before my time. So, I'm sorry, I was thinking about the Hendrickson location. And to my knowledge, we never saw an operating budget of the Hendrickson location. So, we voted that, subject to financing, it would be a good thing for the county to enter this contract and pay an additional \$20,000.00. And again, it being a 3-year contract. So, that's what the request is for this morning.

Missy said where would we take that money out of?

Laura said general.

Missy said they have made a lot of improvements out there. They've put dog, I know because they occasionally have to call for dog food and cat food, because they are taking care of so many. And sometimes they're there for a certain amount of time. And dog food has gone up like 21%. I just happened to look that up because I thought that's what that was. And they really have done a nice job at that facility.

Mayor McCoy said we're planning on adding if we entered this contract as well, because we housed I think it was 57 dogs. I think that's throughout the county last year, or up to this point this year, and we're going to add on, I don't remember the dimensions. Actually, Aaron is wanting to go a little bigger than what we initially talked about. And we're going to try to work that through. But we're currently getting quotes to actually add on to this shelter, and also have a room for isolation. A big problem is parvo and things like that, that spreads throughout an animal shelter and will kill all the dogs if we don't isolate sometimes.

Missy said and you don't take cats, right?

Mayor McCoy said we have a cat area and we have picked up cats. What we don't pick up is feral cats. And that's been a big discussion lately.

Missy said that's what I thought.

Mayor McCoy said a feral cat is no different than a wild raccoon or whatever. If you put a feral cat in a cage, they're going to basically rip themselves apart trying to get out. They're a wild animal.

Dave said I think there's a program for feral cats to get it neutered.

Mayor McCoy said there is, and we have a lady here in town wanting to do that, but the people that, where she's picking the cats up, they don't want them back. And, it's cats neutered, clip their ears, release them to the same location, they don't want the cats. The cats are destroying the area down there. They don't want them back. And if you were to take the cat and take it to Delaware County, it will find its way home. It'll come right back to where it was born.

Dave said so what I'm saying is if we could get on top of that, if we get in a cycle. I think Shelley King does that in Union City, has a program where she brings them in and spays.

Mike Wickersham said is that Paws? We have Linda Campbell from Winchester, is kind of taken on I guess, the feral cat situation. And she presented to us, Monday morning. She's trying to find some help in developing a humane society in Winchester. She's talked to Paws and hasn't gotten very far with Paws with the help over here. But she kind of indicated, as you indicated, that if we had a 501C3 Humane society, then there is state money to do the neutering, cutting the ears. But that doesn't, I guess that doesn't completely solve the existing problem. It would solve the problem in the future because you've got to get ahold of all of them to do that.

Dave said future problem is what we're after.

Mike Wickersham said and we basically indicated that it was not something that we were ready to take on as county government to host a humane society, and she, I think she's looking to raise money initially, just to get a 501C3 designation. And where she goes from that, I don't know. But I did direct her to the Forum of funders, which that is an organization that could help do that for her, offer money for her, because she's indicated that she participated in the cultivating community meetings that the Randolph United has done, which is kind of tied to Forum of funders and everybody, I think she said everybody there thought feral cats needed to be addressed. So, we'll see where that goes.

Dave said I'm not opposed to the increase. What I'd like to see Bob is, I want to see a budget being physically responsible, just my idea to find out how much your guys are spending.

Mayor McCoy said I have no issue with that whatsoever.

Tom Chalfant said would you anticipate, how much do you think it would cost us next year if we were in the contract, if we help pay for this expansion?

Mike Wickersham said well it's a 3-year contract. So, it'll be the same cost next year.

Tom Chalfant said three years.

Mayor McCoy said yeah, so, actually, the contract will be effective next year.

Mike Wickersham said yeah, be \$65,000 starting in January 2024, and then 25 and 26.

Tom Chalfant said for myself in the rural areas, well I think my constituents, when I tell them we pay \$65,000.00 to take care of 57 dogs, I think they would think that's pretty extreme. And you know, it's a no kill shelter and, you know, and pets would become a bigger issue. Standing room only at the Parker town council last Thursday because of dogs, issues and they're wanting stronger ordinances. The state ordinances are very loose, and hopefully allows more local control. Then again, people love pets and some people love cats, some people like dogs. But it's, I'm not comfortable with that much of an increase to fund a no kill shelter personally.

Todd said yeah, I feel the same way. I feel like you have animals at those shelters a lot of times because you have irresponsible owners, and you're asking responsible taxpayers to pay for irresponsible people's decisions. I feel like a dog will live on average, 10 plus years. And to pay a \$1,000.00 a year for 10 years for an animal that could have been used in some other way for a person, kind of crosses my humanitarian versus logical line. And I will probably vote against this increase. It's a 50% increase over what we're trying to pay, and there's no solution that, in my mind, I'm hearing, that keeps it from getting more and more expensive, because you have to add on space to accommodate more animals that you don't have a plan to euthanize if they're not adopted. It just seems like a problem that just compounds. I would be all for it if there was some sort of solution that involved a length of time for adoption, after which there was the euthanization. I just have trouble with perpetually paying for an animal that has been irresponsibly dumped for a decade.

Mayor McCoy said for clarity, it's \$60,000 a year. And it's currently \$40, right.

Todd said it's \$45 moving to \$65?

Mike Wickersham said well, I wasn't fully prepared this morning, because I wasn't expecting to be here, but was summoned off the street out there.

Mayor McCoy said Meeks, do you recall, because I thought it was 60.

Meeks said it was 45 to 65.

Mike Wickersham said and I guess to your point, it is a \$20,000.00 increase this year, but that's going back 3 years to the time of the contract.

Meeks said well I think that you just, if you weren't going to do it, you'll have to figure out a different way of how you're going to handle these. And I think you know, like I've been telling Tom for the last two months, society has changed from when I grew up. I think Grandpa would have shot that dog. And, you know, what are you going to do if you don't have a place to take them, because we've just changed in our ways of thinking.

Dave said Bob, what kind of program do you have for adoption? I've not seen anything out there.

Mayor McCoy said what do you mean you haven't seen anything?

Dave said for if you guys are making any indication for adopting.

Mayor McCoy said we have events where Aaron will go out to Orscheln or whatever. We did them in the park. We have events on the weekends for adoption. We offer it at reduced prices to adopt. But the problem being, when we take a dog in, the first thing we have to do, spay or neuter and all the shots. That's required by IC code back in July of last year I think. So, we've got an expense of \$150.00 or whatever in that animal, and that's getting a bargain from a local vet. So, it's not really a winning thing no matter what you do. And I mean, I understand, you know, you say the word euthanization, it doesn't go over well. But as far, you know, back to the feral cats, I understand euthanizing a feral cat. Again, it's a wild animal. If we get called for a coon, or DNR gets called for a coon, what do they do with a coon or a possum? And then, you know, if you're releasing domestic cats back into the neighborhood, that's one thing, but not feral cats.

Tom Chalfant said so, what do you call wild dogs?

Mayor McCoy said coyotes. We don't see too many wild dogs.

Dave said I've got a red fox in my back yard. Do you want that?

Mike Wickersham said to Meeks' point, there's probably a lot of people in the county that still would shoot those dogs if they have opportunity and inclination. And that's beyond our ability to control. What we're trying to control is those citizens in the county that say I've got a dog in my yard. It's not mine. I've checked with my neighbors. My neighbors don't own it. Can you come and get it? And the sheriffs don't have the manpower to do that or the vehicles to do that. So, we call the animal shelter and they go pick it up. And that citizen is happy. So, I guess that, and Meeks is right, if we don't sign this contract, then I'm not sure what we do.

Tom Kerns said well we can't run a shelter on our own for anywhere close to that price. That's the other side of it. Just the salary of one person with benefits.

Dave said back to my point about the adoption, if I've not seen it, there's a lot of people who haven't seen it either. You know what I'm saying?

Mayor McCoy said well I mean, there could be a better job of doing that. But I mean you could get on the face book site and they're constantly showing animals.

Missy said I see it every morning.

Mayor McCoy said yeah. So, I mean, and Aaron doesn't get in a hurry to get a dog fixed or whatever, because a lot of times, that dog has been picked up and it's somebody's pet, and he'll like put it out there and say hey, we found this dog, please, you now, if you know of anybody. So, a lot of the dogs do get returned. But then a lot of the dogs are lifers. They may be there for 6 months, 9 months, a year, and at \$5.00 a day to feed the dog, let alone everything else, you know, maintained, and then the shots once we give them, it just gets, it's an expensive, you don't even call it a business, because it's a losing business. It's a service.

Dave said okay. Any other discussion? Let's go ahead and vote. I'd entertain a motion on the floor for the additional \$20,000.

Missy made a motion to approve. Tom Kerns seconded the motion. 5 aye votes. 2 nay votes(Tom C. and Todd H.). Motion carried.

Mike said thank you. I guess I should ask while I'm here, was the commissioner's comp payout additional appropriation, was that approved?

Dave said it was.

Mike Wickersham said I think, the only other thing I would bring up from our meeting yesterday if you'd like me to give you a brief report, we were requested by Randolph United Technology Committee, or the technology, I guess, to spend our earmarked \$400,000.00 that we earmarked for Broadband expansion several months ago, to spend about half of that on running fiber from the west edge of Winchester to the racetrack and the subdivision behind the race track, and also to run fiber from the south end of Winchester on Old 27 from that location out to the 4-H fairgrounds. And it was combined, and the quote was from NLBC, John Greene, and he's proposing that it's going to cost around \$600,000.00 to do that, or excuse me, he's going to pay 60% of the cost and we're going to pay 40% of the cost, requested to pay 40% of

the cost, and our share would be a little over \$200,000.00 for both the laying of the fiber. We tabled it to gather more information, and one of the things I requested from the technology committee to see if they'd talked to Comcast cable or any of the other internet companies or providers in the area to see if they're interested to do it to get a competitive bid on it. But we did have some discussion regarding the positive nature of providing high speed internet to those locations. And then the opposite of that was it's going to serve a little less than 50 homes and just two businesses at this point in time. And whether that is kind of a narrow spending and focus of spending half of the money we already earmarked for technology.

Todd said and this is for fiber, right?

Mike Wickersham said this goal is, yeah, this project is for fiber. Our earmarked money wasn't necessarily for fiber, but it was for technology advancement, but technology committee has been organized to give us recommendations on that. They're bringing us a recommendation. I share it with you this morning to not necessarily this morning, because I know it's 10:30 and it's a long meeting for council, except in July, August. But I share it with you that if you have any ideas or thoughts about it, I would sure appreciate your opinion. You know my email, you know my phone number.

Tom Chalfant said well what's Mr. Greene's incentive for spending \$400,000.00 to do that?

Mike Wickersham said I assume that it's a link in the whole operation. It, and the other thing I should mention is, he indicated that both of those localities are not in the federal bid for technology advancement. So, nobody has that territory like they have, Green Township or southwest part of the county.

Todd said well it's going to be handled in the rural areas, but I got word here a couple weeks ago from our AT&T that they are put a firm date in on supporting copper. So, at some point, all the copper, plain old telephone lines people have in their houses, I don't know how it's going, if they're going to continue. So, I think the future is more in the broadband side of connectivity versus even fiber, because somethings got to replace the copper.

Mike Wickersham said and they say if you've star link, you've got about as fast as you can get, if you can get star link.

Todd said that's a lot cheaper than putting fiber.

Tom Chalfant said well this \$200,000.00, will we get to see financials from New Lisbon?

Mike Wickersham said I don't know if the technology committee has seen that or not. He said, I will say he shared his return. If he does it all himself, he's got a 15-year return. If we participate, it reduces to about 8 years. And that's one year above what they normally like to do to invest in a fiber project. So, that's what he shared with us. But we get nothing out of it, once, I mean, again, citizenry, economic development, whether that makes the west side more for economic development in the area just west.

Tom Chalfant said I mean a 15-year payback is not unheard of in business, once it's paid and then there's profit.

Mike Wickersham said and he controls that payback too.

Tom Chalfant said yeah, I mean, so, yeah, I think we, to get something in return, I mean, instead of there's 12, 15 houses, anyway, I think we should have some kind of, we should have tentacles in this contract somewhere in the future.

Dave said I'd like to see 40% of the profits back to us.

Tom Chalfant said well we won't get that, but again,

Dave said that's where you start.

Tom Chalfant said there is, yeah, we need something out of this.

Mike Wickersham said well there might be a better way to spend that \$200,000.00. I guess that's kind of the way we were looking at it.

Dan Baker said so, to answer that, technology committee has looked at the entire county. We're looking at ways to fill the gaps from the federal funding program that's coming down. \$850 to \$70,000,000.00 to the state from the federal government. However, we, well we were trying to identify where those funds are going to go to. It's been talked about for many, many, many, many years, to try to get something out to the Speedway, potentially something out to the 4-H fairgrounds for more of a tourism draw. And the residents of the county utilize both facilities, especially in the summertime for the 4-H fairgrounds. So, for us, it's just trying to identify what has the county, I would to, we would love to help every single resident. But running fiber to every single resident is just not feasible. I would echo that what we have been given from the ISP providers is that copper is going away. So, we keep being asked about Comcast or another. I work on the National Guard side of things. I can tell you fiber is to the future when it comes to internet, and also, direct wireless. Whenever we talk to a Watch communications, how can we improve direct wireless in the area to reach the tentacles of Randolph County. So, there have been many conversations on the technology committee side about this, and there needs to be many more about it. So, like Mike was saying, you guys have recommendations if you want to get involved, because this is a big thing across the nation, especially in the state and county levels, especially when it comes to the federal, the funding that we're getting, we need to get ahead of the game. So, I actually hadn't seen the quote until last Friday for that, just to add to it. But, we do think that there's added value to go to those areas. What that looks like, we're trying to figure that out.

Todd said I don't know what the, if there's any other county models out there along these lines to, with the county in the shape and the topography in Randolph County, this would be a perfect fit for a centralized broadband coverage that residents could subscribe to. I know there are some private ones around here. They're serve good in certain areas and they have them hanging off you know, some water towers and things like that. But I would be interested in participating in that if you're having this kind of discussion.

Dan Baker said so, I'll invite you to our technology committee meetings. I'll sent the dates out for our technology committee meetings if you want to get involved in that.

Mike Wickersham said so our communications project, we build 3, 300 plus foot towers, and part of that plan was that we would have providers coming to us to say we want to lease space off your tower to provide service to these areas. We've not got the first one. And I know, I think Watch is going to build their own. So, why they do that, that's part of their business plan.

Dave said Todd, I agree with you on the broadband, and Daniel knows where I stand on broadband and fiber optic, because I was on that committee for several years. I agree with that, we need to do both. We cannot do just fiber optics. We never seem to lean that way out of that technology group. It was always fiber optics in my opinion. And we really need to address the broadband side of it.

Missy said we've got to have both though, because if you have, you're in an area where you have trees. If you have trees, you can't get through trees.

Dave said right. I agree with that.

Missy said I like the idea of going with \$200,000 and, we've got to get something going in our county on internet connectivity. And that means like two spurs and they have some manufacturing that goes that way. So, you're going to have, you know, you've got to have a combination of both.

Dave said I agree with that.

Missy said I think we've got to get going on something. I hear that all the time when I talk to school kids. And you know, I don't, say, what are you doing at the Ridgeville library? You know what, they don't have any connectivity anymore. They've got to go sit with, their mom has got to take them and sit in the parking lot to do their homework, because they do have. They can hit, and the same thing here in Winchester, but Ridgeville is a little bit worse, because of their location. I think we've got to do something to start moving and getting some connectivity in this town.

Mike Wickersham said well I didn't mean to throw all your meeting off.

Dave said we usually have 1 ½ meetings.

Mike Wickersham said oh, you do?

Dave said I do have a question for you Mike. I took a picture of your, the monument out here with the lights coming down. And clear at the top, those chains are rubbing against the stone itself.

Mike Wickersham said there's a bracket up there.

Missy said there's a bracket with padding up there.

Dave said yeah, but here's the actual photo.

Mike Wickersham said there should be brackets around the monument. Brackets covered with fire hose.

Dave said I'll show you what I'm after. All my experience with community Christmas, is the wind going back and forth. It's going to scour that stone in my opinion, this year you may get by alright, but it looks like the chain is actually rubbing against about two feet down from that bracket at the top.

Mike Wickersham said why don't you send me that picture, I'll send it to Jimmy Martin. They designed it.

Missy said yeah, then Mike Bennett would come and look at that. He's the one who put them up there.

Dave said I can get that picture to you.

Mike Wickersham said okay. Anything else for the commissioners? Thank you.

Citizen Comments (3-minute limit)

Dave said anybody from the community out there who would like to speak?

Mayor said I appreciate everybody's vote during the election. I am glad it's over. Just four more and I'm done.

Dave said Ray, do you have anything for us?

Ray Cooney said I don't.

Dave said I just appreciate you being here and thanks for all the great reporting you are doing for us.

Meeks said I did have one thing, Dave. The clerk did get sued during the election, I don't like to talk about litigation, but the clerk got dismissed from that on Friday. If anybody has a question about it, let me know and I can explain.

Bev said clerk?

Meeks said Mindy, Mindy got sued. It should have been the election board, but she got sued as the clerk. And that got dismissed.

Bev said oh, it got dismissed.

Meeks said she got dismissed out of it on Friday.

Dave said that's a Wayne County Judge?

Meeks said Wayne County Judge

Dave said okay, any other thing, Daniel?

Dan Baker said yeah, so you, everyone should have received an email about the READI 2.0 call for projects. If you didn't, let me know, but we are reaching out to the county about what READI is.

Tom Chalfant said would there be any, I'd like to see a map of the funding, where it's going, I mean, exactly where it's going to tell us where did this money go in READI 1, where it gets spent. Can we see that?

Daniel Baker said so, I can get that from IEDC. Right now, for the county, the READI money just went to the 4-H fairgrounds and to Vision Corner. IEDC has an update, I believe, on December 5th, where they're going to be releasing that information about READI 1.0. And then READI 2.0, we have been working with the original partnership, NHWC on pulling countywide. And I hope that you guys have been seeing e-mails come across about that, on the 8 counties within our region trying to solidify a strategy as a region. And then the call for projects, it is a regional call for projects. It's not an IEDC call for projects, because IEDC this time is funding the regional strategies, and not projects specific, like they did last time. So, what I have asked people to do is if it's a project you think might be part of READI, submit it in the tool. If you have questions about it, feel free to reach out to me in my office. But, I just need to get the word out to everybody, so your constituents, everybody, like we need this filled up or we're going to be missing out on this opportunity. So, other than that, I also wanted to announce that I do have a new office administrator, Dakota Ellis. He was hired and started on Monday. So, if you come into the office, you'll meet him, probably first. So, also wanted to give an update on the open business pitch competition that the commissioners had supported. But, we had an excellent competition that was a shark tank style competition. We had a total of \$16,000.00 that we had received from EDP and between EDIT funds to do this. We had five contestants that pitched. Abigail. Her business is Salt Creek Floral

Designs. She blew it out of the water. She won first place, and it was totaled \$9,000.00 from \$7,500 for first place prize, audience, and then also the, my favorite part was the students that came. They had excellent questions and were very engaged in the process. And then we had the second place was Modoc Garden and third place was Main Street Assembly. And the other two said that the biggest benefit was the activities that they had to do to create a business plan and everything else before that with the small business development center. So, it was a great event. We had 117 people show up. Next year, we're trying to get more private funding for it. Right, this year was just kind of get it kicked off, just get it kicked off. So, if you are interested in any of that, let me know, because we're going to be doing that as we move forward. So, other than that, I'd just like to end it, if you have any questions for me, because I know a lot of things get out there. So, if you, ask me any questions, let me know.

Dave said I'd like to talk to you after the meeting just a minute.

Dan Baker said okay.

Missy said Main Street has the lighting of the monument Friday night. It'll really start at 5:30, because there's going to be people around at the other monuments explaining how they got there, and all that. And then there's a Veteran's Day program from 6:30 to 7:00. It won't last very long, but it'll be a real nice program. Bring your own chair. Seriously, bring your own lawn chair.

Dave said well they said they close up on Main Street, right?

Missy said yeah, Main Street will be shut down.

Todd said the airport board meeting that they have every month, they asked us to start thinking in 2024 about bringing back up the replacement of the terminal. The terminal is the first building you see when you come in, their offices. You guys probably already know this, but I didn't, I was not aware, so they had commissioned someone about 10 years ago, to create a proposal and had designs, cost about 20,000 I think, for the study. I've got that scanned and I'll send it to you because it has some interesting history on that terminal. What they ask is probably going to be 200,000 for a design of about a \$1,000,000.00 building. And I believe it's a terminal with a hangar attached from the drawing I saw. So, that's what they're thinking about.

Dave said so they get \$150,000 a year from FAA? That money is to use for?

Todd said yeah, there's some.

Dave said I'd like to know.

Todd said I think there's a four-year refresh on that and they have to have their submission in by a certain time to use that program. Some money can be used for terminals, some has to be used for the strip and has to be for the hangars. So, they're on top of that.

Dave said okay. And I've been thinking about this anyhow, we don't have a bonding payoff of a building until 2026. So, I wouldn't even, as county councilman, I wouldn't recommend that we do anything until then on the building. They have to have a lot of preliminary stuff, and they can go ahead and start, but other than us spending a lot of money, like \$200,000, in 2024 for a project maybe, in 2026, or 2027.

Todd said yeah, I asked them about the length of time these designs were good for. It's a design building engineering firm, so there's only one or two companies available that designs these kinds of structures. And the plan is to good for a number of years. It doesn't require a refresh every so many years. I think

PDF might be the name of the firm that, it's the same firm that did the design, that preliminary design about 10 years ago.

Tom Chalfant said yeah, they wanted a two-story building, elevated.

Todd said yeah, their design was way over.

Tom Chalfant said yeah, so, I don't know that I'd want to talk to those people.

Dave said yeah, Darke County just put one in, 2.4 million two-story.

Tom Chalfant said I mean barn demonian, this is sort of same kind of thing. You're building a terminal on the side of a hangar. A hangar, I think is 90% federally funded, and the terminal is 50%. So, if there's any out there, it would nice to just, instead of

Todd said I thought the same thing. Can't you just you know, build the same design that's in another county that's got the same need that you have. They are looking into that to see if they can get some sort of, but again, you're doing apparently, sort of a monopoly on the architectural side.

Dave said okay. Tom, do you have anything for the?

Tom Kerns said one thing is, the 21st, Union City is going to have their, the community Thanksgiving dinner again with the school and the churches, and the community does it all, combined, at the school. So, and then the next day, on the 22nd, we also deliver meals to homes for anybody that's shut in. So, any churches that wants to turn in an order, and we usually do, I think last year we had about 800 meals at the school we served, and another 950 the next day so, kind of doing that.

Dave said that's a great program you guys have started over there.

Tom Kerns said and the Thanksgiving meal is for everybody, for anybody and everybody.

Dave said Todd, do you have anything else?

Todd said I don't know, I just mentioned, I know earlier in the year, I asked about that COVID fund that's sitting there roughly, it's over a million I believe.

Laura said the ARPA fund.

Todd said yeah, so.

Laura said the Commissioners control that.

Todd said so wasn't there a time limit on when that had to be used by?

Laura said it has to be appropriated by the end of 2024, totally spent by the end of 2026.

Tom Chalfant said there's not much left is there?

Laura said it's on the sheet that Sherrie sends you.

Todd said it looks like there's 2 million.

Laura said yeah, probably. That sounds about right. I haven't looked at it lately.

Dave said anything else, Todd?

Todd said huh uh.

Dave said Mike?

Mike said huh uh.

Dave said Missy do you have anything?

Missy said here's a question. It's probably not for us, but, any, what are the plans for the old county barn? It's got some people hanging out there, congregating there very late at night for a while.

Tom Chalfant said that's a good question to ask the Commissioner's.

Missy said yeah, I know, I should have, maybe I'll see him.

Meeks said if there's people congregating, probably need to call the police.

Tom Chalfant said they stole some, I think they stole some copper.

Dave said anything else? Bev?

Bev said is the wedding venue up and running?

Missy said yes. And the community foundation had their annual dinner and grant awards out there last Thursday. And it is a very nice building. I mean, it's just nice because there's no poles or anything. It accommodates a lot more people. They've got some thinking to do about their lighting in their parking lot, and those kinds of things. But, you know, there's another one, talk about feral cats, we would probably have 5 or 6 feral cats every year running around our neighborhood killing, I mean, if you had a, we've got one cat that tried to attack our neighbor's smaller dog. They just bred over there. That's the other thing about that event center being there, all that stuff was cleared out and the cats, now some of them are over at the old county barn, because there's nobody in there to run them out. It worked out really well.

Bev said good.

Dave said anything else? Tom?

Adjournment

Dave said I guess we need a motion to adjourn.

Tom Chalfant made motion to adjourn. Mike seconded the motion. All aye votes. Meeting adjourned.

Reviewed and accepted this 5 day of December, 2023.

RANDOLPH COUNTY COUNCIL

David Benbender

Jeffrey

Tom Chalfant

Beverly Fields

~~Michael~~

Mike

Frank

ATTESTED:

Laura J Martin
Laura J Martin, Auditor