

# Randolph County Council

August 4, 2020

The Randolph County Council met for its regular meeting at 9:00 AM in the Commissioners and Council Room of the Courthouse with the following members present: Council President Gary Friend, Rick Brown, Tom Kerns, Max Holaday, David Lenkensdofer and Missy Williams. Also present was County Auditor Laura J Martin.

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Council President Gary Friend presided.

Pledge of Allegiance

## **Chris Shaneyfelt – Approval of Grant application**

Gary said Chris is not here but he has a grant application that we need to approve.

Laura said the Commissioner's approved it yesterday.

Rick made a motion to approve the grant applications as presented. Max seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

## **Debi Wymer – Health Department Grant application**

Debi said this is a grant from the state for a Covid testing site, it is for \$100,000.00 and I believe it is a pass-through grant. I haven't been able to get a hold of anyone to verify what type of grant it is.

Rick said it is not a reimbursable grant. The state is going to send out checks every so often to cover the cost of the testing. What they are trying to do is to get away from some of the contract sites that are set up through the counties and try to have county health departments in each county have a testing site and also set hours on Saturday's and after hours. The state is going to supply money to help cover the cost of any personnel and provide all the supplies for testing.

Gary asked if there were anymore questions or concerns regarding this grant.

Dave asked where can they be tested at?

Debi said right now there is an optima site in Richmond at the old Elder Bearman store, the have to go online to register for that and that one is free. Med Express in Muncie is doing testing that is not free and your insurance may or may not cover it. It is \$219.00.

Dave said we don't do any testing locally anymore.

Debi said no, we are working on it.

Max made a motion to approve this request. Missy seconded. 5 aye votes. Ricky abstained. Motion carried.

### **Enterprise Fleet Proposal**

Gary said the Enterprise Fleet are not here today, they contacted the Highway Department, Tom Chalfant and myself and they do have a proposal to maintain our fleet at a newer level.

### **Robin Vickery & Judge Toney– Project Income/funding for unemployment**

Robin said Community Corrections unfortunately has hit hard times, our loss of revenue from the work release program as well as Covid. The courts have been closed, we haven't been getting referrals in which has taken our project income way down. That being said we are hurting and we cannot financially continue with the staff that we currently have. The advisory board is meeting tomorrow, there will be discussions to determine how we are going to deal with this. We do know that staff is going to be cut and what we are looking at is laying off staff. We have a new program that has been implemented called day reporting.

Gary asked what is that?

Robin said it is a supervision program where the Prosecutor's office and the Court can send someone to day reporting, where they will report to our office, depending on the needs and the order of the court.

Gary said they will check in everyday with your office.

Robin said that can vary with what the need is and what the circumstance are, it can be electronic monitoring, it can be without electronic, there are variables there.

Judge Toney said it is also something we can do pre-trial, which gets them out of jail.

Robin said in front of you is something I wanted you to see, I know many of you have been on the County Council for several years so you have an understanding that Community Corrections through the years has been stable up until 2020. I just wanted you to see through the years where we were at. In 2019/20 we that is just for a 6-month period at the bottom. Community Corrections has been stable throughout the years with project income. This is something new to our department, we've never been faced with something like this before. I just wanted to remind the County Council that we have had stability within our department. That being said we are here requesting that the County Council would approve appropriations into the project income account for unemployment. The Commissioner's approved the line yesterday and we are going to need money put into that line or appropriated into that line in order to make that next step of laying some full-time staff off for now. The hope is that enough referrals will be generated that we can bring staff back but we are in a position right now that where we need to cut money from the program for project income. I can't tell you exactly how this is going to play out because our board is going to be making decisions on this tomorrow but I do know that there is going to be staff laid off. I have given you expenses for 100,200,300, 400 series. We have put that in as a

director and one case manager, two case managers, those are decisions that the board is going to need to make. I have given you a layout of the full-time employees and the cost for vacation hours, personal hours, comp hours that are currently there. That could have changed from the time I printed this out of July 29<sup>th</sup> but I wanted you to have an understanding and see on paper where we are at and dependent on how many individuals that are laid off, you can see the unemployment line, the minimum rate of \$390.00 per week and I just estimated out the 20 weeks to the end of this grant year at \$7,800.00 per employee. If two employees are laid off we are looking at \$15,600.00, if three are laid off we are looking at \$23,400.00. That being said that is if there is a need to draw the unemployment, there may not be that need.

Gary said \$390.00 is maximum unemployment, are all you people at maximum.

Robin said yes, I would say so.

Gary said you are asking, not to make a line item in project income but to actually put money in from somewhere else. Or do you just want us to develop a line?

Robin said you have to develop a line, so that we can pay out of it. You will see I did have collections down there that I estimated low because of this situation, Covid and the unknowns, so this last month we brought in \$5,800 and some dollars, I am estimating \$5,000 a month to make sure that we are not over estimating on what would be coming in and so we believe those funds will be there to pay those things out, but we are going to need a line to be pay the unemployment.

Gary said we are obligated to pay the unemployment, that is a given. I think there is a question on how that is going run out when it comes to comp time. I guess I would ask if it is so slow why is comp time building?

Robin said because we are still dealing with offenders who have to call and have schedule changes, we have individuals possibly in violations and we have to go to the residence, we have to deal with situations. That is the reason for the comp time, they are not just collecting comp time, there a purpose behind it.

Gary said Tom, you are on the board, do you have anything to add.

Tom said the only thing I would like to add is, with what they are looking at right now, with the cash balance, current wage with the potential layoffs, by the end of the year at only \$5000.00 coming in, that project income is going to be basically completely deleted. We also have to look at the first of next year, there is a chance that we are going to have to contribute to keep the program going because if it is down to nothing at the beginning of the year, you can look at her numbers here, with the services that come out of project income and we are currently a little over 60% of all insurance comes out of project income for the employees. At \$5000.00 a month, just the unemployment if we have three employees on unemployment, that is going to take almost 100% of project income and it obviously can't come out of the grant so after the first of the year we are looking at a big deficit in project income with the budget. We need to know that is coming and it might be something that we need to go over her whole budget with her again when we are doing budgets and look to see where we are going to be and where those projected

shortfalls are going to come from. The new day program, she really doesn't know what kind of income is going to come from it and that could jump things back up and help.

Gary said Robin I'm well aware and I know the Council is well aware that you have always carried yourself, the only thing that doesn't get paid for is the stop loss of the insurance other than that everything else is paid for. The problem is the burden on the County is not just you. I'm afraid you are the first one in of a cascading event that has all of us on edge. We want to be absolutely as fair as humanly possible, but this has been a ripple throughout the County. It is our job to get it fixed and we will get it fixed, I'm optimistic but it is not going to be without pain. We do however know we are obligated to pay unemployment. Does anyone else have anything?

Dave said I am just trying to review some of the comp time and there is a lot of comp time for program agreement for Robin's part, what is that?

Robin said are you referring to Community Corrections or are you referring to specific individuals.

Dave said Community Corrections.

Robin said I have just gone through grant time, during writing the grant my comp time always goes up. Also, we pretty much had to come up with another program in order to present our grant and so not only was I in the middle of grant, I was in the middle of developing a new program and there was a lot of time involved in that.

Judge Toney said that a lot of those things, grant writing and such hit while Robin was on vacation and she came in and did the work, working day and night, she has done a good job of keeping the board ahead of the curve if that is possible in knowing what's going on and that is why we are having extra meetings, we have one tomorrow to hopefully approve our final contracts for this day reporting program. Judge Haviza will ultimately have more referrals for this program but I will have the first one ready to put on it as soon as we approve the program. As you folks know, I am not telling you anything new, Community Corrections is one of the programs that the state has actually stepped up on because they see how important it is. You guys all know about unfunded mandates and that is where the state has really done a good job of keeping money in the program. I am sure there are a lot of counties suffering at this time. We also as Robin mentioned losing the work release program, when the Sheriff terminated that and probably for good reason based on conversations we had during Community Corrections meetings. That was a big hit and then this on top of it, it's not for lack of time and effort on Community Corrections employees. We have tough decisions that we have to make tomorrow.

Gary asked Judge Toney, can you see how criminal justice is going to go in 2021.

Judge Toney its still going to be dependent upon the virus. That probably doesn't make a lot of sense unless you are folks in your position because you understand. When we were told by the state no jury trials, the last thing a defend wants is to come in and get his case over with, he is happy for it to be just sitting there. Even if they are probably just going to get home detention anyway, they don't care. Without Community Corrections our choices are send them to jail or

set them free and put them on probation and that is the last thing we want to do, even without work release, we have the option of home detention or the day reporting which is a little bit lessor than home detention, it gives us some more options.

Gary asked Judge Toney, do you think this will run into our pauper attorney collections since court costs are down. Do you think that particular account might be in desperate need for cash?

Judge Toney said somewhat. We don't know yet but I think that is possible.

Tom said one other thing I would add, since most of the staff is paid through the grant, once staff is let go, it is going to complicate things with the grant to the point where things could have to be paid back to the state as part of the grant money. The whole thing is a balancing act since it is a grant.

Meeks said I talked to Kent Erwin yesterday after the County Commissioner meeting and he said if you lay off somebody temporarily they still have a status with the county, he thought you could probably hold the eligibility and accumulated time and place but he was going to get back with me. I was waiting until after today to e-mail them to see what the County Council was going to do.

Judge Toney said so that would freeze their time.

Meeks said I'm pretty sure on the vacation, not sure on the comp time. I think it is important, I thought about it after our meeting, I haven't talked to Laura about it yet, is to treat everybody the same in the county, meaning if you are in Community Corrections we are going to treat the same as the highway department, as an employee of the jail or the courthouse. They certainly can get us policies and documents and all that other stuff, I felt pretty good after talking to Kent.

Gary said Community Corrections cannot be treated any differently.

Laura said we just need a policy for the county because we don't have one in the hand book for layoffs.

Gary said we do need to establish a line, we have an obligation there, also we have obligations that are required by law and we will make sure they get paid out, there is no doubt about that.

Robin said the only other thing that I didn't mention and I know Tom brought it up, he did mention the insurance and that's really where we get hit hard, is trying to pay for those insurance, we have about \$40,000.00 and when you have family that almost triples the cost of insurance and that change for us with having a couple of employees on family insurance. That cost is tremendous when you are going through something like this.

Gary said I had the same exact conversation with the Highway department, who also pays their insurance out of motor vehicle highway and they are struggling with their budget as well and the problem is, I wish that we could just pay it, but we can't afford to not have departments

contribute. We would have to cut the insurance program to places where nobody has even considered if we were to do that.

Max said if you reduce your staff by two or three will you be able to accomplish your goal.

Robin said I think it will be a challenge, but we are up for the challenge. We are looking at this as temporary and that is the hope and so my only thing is if we would have to cut back three employees, then I would think we would have to bring in possibly part time staff on occasion because I don't see any way around it. When people need to take days off and you have someone sick or someone that has other obligations I'd have to be mindful of that piece as well and that is not factored in here. However, I do believe the unemployment we are probably not going to see as much because I'm already aware of an employee situation and some decisions that their going through right now and hopefully they won't need the unemployment, so that being said I think we are going to be okay. To be fair I don't want to say we are just going down to two employees because there has to be some room there for coverage especially when we are working with the population we are working with.

Gary asked how much money do you need put into that line out of project income?

Robin said I have written on here if we go with three, I think we just need to go ahead and put the \$23,400.00 on the line just to make sure whatever decision is made.

Gary said will that leave you short, would you be better off doing half that and coming back next month and doing a transfer.

Angela said you have \$31,000.00 in cash, if you transfer \$23,400.00 it doesn't leave a lot to pay anyone else.

Gary said do you just want to go half that and come back in a month and see where we are at.

Tom said the \$31,000.00, she does still have the income coming into that.

Tom made a motion to create a new line for unemployment and transfer \$23,400 of project income into it. Max seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

### **Other Business:**

#### **Report from Commissioners**

Gary said Gary Girton is here.

Gary Girton said yesterday we set an American Wind Week Proclamation. We thought it was very important to do that especially since we have the wind farms. He said the Communications system met last week, we voted to put out RFP for bids for the towers, the issue we have right now is frequency established for the uses, the fella that is in charge at the state said that it was all done, he resigned and left two weeks ago. Terry doesn't know where we are at, they are going to try and push to get it moved forward, I guess there is a process for some type of emergency situations where they can get that licensing and then come back and be approved by your board.

The situation is the way I understand it, we could bid all this, buy all of it and we cannot erect the towers until we have the license. He said that is the only thing that is in limbo, the rest of this project is moving forward. We are about two months behind. They still think that if everything is done they can have it up by the end of the year and finalize it by the first of the year. The architect, I was talking to him after the meeting and he thinks that is optimistic. He said I think Jake needs to tell us a little bit about the RCFFO project.

### **Jake Donham**

Jake said I sent an e-mail out a few weeks ago, we lost a compressor on the chiller, so it is only running at 50%, whether it was a power surge or what, it was tripping out, we lost a circuit board and a variable speed fan on that circuit. During the trouble shooting, come to find out the top head of the compressor which is three phase, it arced out on top of that head, which normally means that compressor is shot, in the process of diagnosing that at first we went ahead and ordered the parts because it was still sustained in my budget and then when we go to the compressor part of it that may have blew the budget.

Gary asked if that compressor was part of the project.

Jake said yes, we were like two days into it and got to the compressor and found out that it was bad as well. What I had Salyer Taylor do, is everything done to it up to now, put it all on one ticket, give you a price so I can come to you guys.

Gary said I was asking if that compressor was part of the million-dollar retro.

Jake said no, this is the chiller on the outside of the building, this thing has been sitting there running for 15 years, however long that building has been there, it is the original equipment. To my knowledge we have never done anything to that compressor other than normal maintenance and fans.

Gary said so that compressor failure had nothing to do with the courthouse?

Jake said I'm pretty sure I said RCFFO building. He said luckily it has held, when it was 95 degrees it was running only on 50% of that unit I was worried. With the Journey Home being 24/7 that is what worried me because if it goes down its only two or three hour and their 80 degrees in there and there is no way to move air in that facility at all.

Gary asked how much money are we talking?

Jake said I don't have the quote, but its around \$23,000 and some change.

Laura said the Commissioner's approved paying for this out of Cum Cap.

Max made a motion to approve the expenditure out of Cum Cap. Missy seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Jake said we did the punch list on the courthouse about a month ago, most of the items on the punch list are taken care of. They are in the process of getting the fans put on the boiler now so it can regulate stack pressures, there are just a few hiccups with some controls, so we are working with Indiana thermal, Argo and Salyer Taylor trying to get that hammered out. They said right now with the temperature as hot as it is, it is going to be hard to get everything to dial in without running full heat mode. I don't know why we can't just throw 80 degrees on every stat in here and try to open things up, but they are telling me that doesn't work. To get everything dialed in and balanced we might have to wait until we run full heat mode. That just delays on closing the project fully which so far, we haven't signed anything so nothing is under warranty yet.

Gary said I agree that they can't until they get to heat mode.

Jake said so far, the Diken, the air conditioning side of it, I've had very few complaints, just trying to get everybody dialed back in.

Gary asked if all the offices are getting put back together properly.

Jake said as far as I know, they let me know as needed.

Dave said back to Communications and Gary Girton, you mentioned on the 12<sup>th</sup> they are doing what did they call it a pre-submission meeting on the login recorder. The logging recorder are you going to go ahead and get that?

Gary said the towers will be built and then.

Dave said I talked to Terry Burnsworth about this bid and he thought it would be about a September bid, is that correct.

Gary said that would be when they will be received.

Dave said the other concern that he and I had was the four broadband towers, has that been determined yet.

Gary said that has not.

Gary Friend said so we don't really have sites secured yet.

Gary Girton said I have asked them that and I have not really gotten any confirmation. They say they know where the locations need to be but other than that, nothing.

Gary Friend said that is a very big piece.

Gary said it is for me and has been all along.

Gary Friend asked if Terry was working on that.



Gary Girton said that Greg Beumer is working on this, the big break down was when the virus hit, Ball State shut down and they would not let even their professors do anything.

Dave said he also talked to Greg Beumer and he didn't have anything to share either. The impression I got from Terry is that he was waiting on you guys to give him the locations. Was there a Commissioner's meeting where that was discussed?

Gary said that was for the south of 36 site. We do have the south tower located on 36 East of 300 on Country View Farms owned by the Clemmons family. They have all been cooperative.

**Review of estimated property tax levy limits and the estimated reductions due to circuit breakers for each taxing unit**

Gary asked if everyone has their report. What is our levy going to be set at, do we know yet?

Angela said I do not. Gateway is still partially down.

Gary said so our \$7,288,000 total levy.

Angela said yes.

Gary said \$625,000 circuit breaker.

Angela said yes.

Gary said 9% loss.

Angela said don't forget you have to take Cum Bridge out of that dollar amount.

Gary asked if anyone had any questions.

**Land Erosion & Sedimentation Review**

**APC attendance report**

Gary said review of the Land Erosion & Sedimentation report and the APC attendance report.

**Additional Appropriations:**

**1138-CCD                      Bldg. Maint – Jail                      \$9,621.00**

Gary said Sheriff you need \$9,621.00; can you remind everyone what that is for.

Art said it is a change order for the door project.

Rick made a motion to approve the additional appropriation for the door project at the jail out of Cum Cap. Dave seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Bldg. Maint Courthouse</b>	<b>\$2,000.00</b>
	<b>Bldg. Maint RCFFO</b>	<b>\$2,000.00</b>

Gary said what are we asking for here.

Angela said mowing.

Rick said that's right Jake brought that up at the last meeting.

Gary asked how we got \$4,000.00 difference on the mowing?

Angela said frequency I believe is what he stated and snow removal.

Dave mad a motion to approve both of the additional appropriations as presented. Max seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

### **Meeks Cockerill**

Meeks said I sent an e-mail to Gary, I'm not sure I sent it to everybody, but I can. I had a meeting last week with EDPR and they want to get all the agreements done, actually that is the Road Use Agreement, the Economic Development Agreement and the Decommissioning Agreement done by the 17<sup>th</sup> of this month for the Commissioners to review and have County Council approved Economic Revitalization area Resolution done. They think it has to be done on or before 8/20/20. If you didn't want to do it on 8/20/20 we could do on 8/24/20 at your meeting and tell them that their time line is going to be pushed back four days. I wouldn't know way they would need it on or before 8/20/20 because I think we just need ten days to set a public hearing, so I was thinking we could set a public hearing today on a confirmatory resolution for 9/8/2020, get an approval today to set that public hearing and then on the 24<sup>th</sup> at your budget meetings approve an economic revitalization area. See if that works, if that doesn't work for the company I can let you know and if you want to have a special meeting, you already have two special meeting this month. In my opinion I cannot imagine having all of these agreements ready to go by 8/17, that is a week from Friday.

Gary said I am okay with 8/20.

Meeks said I think Jason is not, I talked to Jason Semler and the problem is, we have to understand what the tax abatement means. He said he can get me something by the end of the week. The issue is are they normal tax abatements, when we did it for the wind farms we did 100%, ten years and the wind farm is maybe on ¼ of an acre, that ¼ of an acre is taxed and the roads taxed as a commercial rate. Now we have solar panels and how it was explained to me by George yesterday, anything within the fence and under panel, the fence included and any road is going to be taxed at commercial rate. Everything else will be taxed as non-tillable agricultural rate. We have to understand what is being abated because going from farm ground to commercial can be three to five times higher. If we don't understand what we are abating we could really be shooting ourselves in the foot. If all that land is going to be taxed at commercial that is a lot bigger abatement, I don't think we can tie it to investment, we are investing \$200,000,000 we want an abatement similar to that. That doesn't work for us because how it is taxed. Jason explained that to me and we are probably going to have to have Jason in at the special meeting.

Gary said we asked him for reports.

Meeks said it might be better not to do it during budget hearings so you can hear Jason talk about how the tax rates are affected. I have talked myself out of doing it at the budget hearing because this might be a lot longer conversation with Jason involved.

Gary said let me know in the next week or so and I can get a message to the council and set a meeting.

Meeks said let me get with Jason and see when he can meet and then I will copy you on it and then maybe we can do it according to Jason's schedule. Do you want an evening meeting?

Gary said evening is better for me.

Meeks said this is way more complicated than the wind farm. When I talked to Jason, I sent him George's number so he could figure out how George is going to assess.

Gary said just keep us informed Meeks.

Meeks said the only other thing is the Commissioner's did amend the EDIT plan to allow for \$150,000.00 of COVID reimbursement, I think they are going to try and get some type of trailer or something and they voted to start leasing the old highway barn. So that should happen I would hope by the next couple of weeks.

Gary said we have to get out.

Laura said Mike Haffner and Tom are meeting with the guy that wants to lease it.

Missy said they were over there yesterday moving stuff in the afternoon.

Gary asked Angela, I know you don't have a lot of numbers in front of you or your computer, but can you give us a general run down of where we are at with our budget. What do you think the projections are and how deep our cuts are going to have to be.

Angela said Jason Semler had prepared a report.

Gary asked if what he prepared is pretty accurate?

Angela said yes. His number was close to one million in shortfalls.

Gary said from the projected budget that everyone submitted.

Angela said yes. If we take last years budget, 2020's budget and reduce it 10% we will be okay, but that is very difficult to do. Perhaps we could shake down the Commissioners for a bit of help from wind farm or EDIT, maybe \$250,000 from each, that would get us down to \$500,000.00, so we would just need to reduce the 2020 budget by 5%. I am just throwing some things out there.

Gary said I just wanted everyone to be aware, we are approaching budget hearings.

Angela said can we put some of this back out to department heads, perhaps they would like a say in what they want to cut.

Gary said I would like for you, if the Council so considers, to ask the departments to prepare for a 10% reduction of the 2020 budget. It is not what we want to do, it is worst case scenario, but be prepared. Everyone needs to know where we are at. I'm sure there are things that cannot be touched, I get that. But there are some things that are not off the table. What does the Council think? I would like the Auditor's office to put out a memo that the Council has asked for all departments to look at their 2020 budgets and prepare for a 10% reduction.

Angela said not what they prepared for 2021. Because let's say I put in a 15% raise for the Auditor's office, reducing my budget by 10% would be perfect because I would get a 5% raise.

Tom said the reality is that some departments might lose more than 10% because there are going to be certain things that are going to be untouchable.

Angela said the Commissioner's budget, I have combed it and its insurance and such, what do you do, how do you take 10% out of group insurance, when I need more money for group insurance.

Gary said our claims are still running \$100,000.00 a month?

Angela said a week. Our last two claims have been over one was \$140,000.00 and the other was \$150,000.00.

Gary said have we expired the insurance appropriation of \$1.5 million?

Angela said yes and this is August. She said I don't think we can do anything and I may be over stepping. Can we do anything before the end of the year?

Gary said we may have to start laying off before the end of the year to pay for everything. The Health department had to encounter that when they over spent three or four years ago. We didn't like it but we had to do it. Dr. Sowinski put a plan together that worked to get us back in line.

Angela said I am not singling out any one department, but can we start something now, when someone leaves maybe not allowing rehiring.

Gary said I think the Commissioner's would have to be involved in that. A hiring freeze would have to be, I will meet with Mike and talk to him about that possibility. The hiring freeze and the possibility in the reduction of hours, all of that is coming at us right now. Or we are going to have to replenish somewhere. Either from Windfarm or EDIT. Gary said a tax increase has to be on the table, whether we go there or not, I don't know but we have to look at it. We have about ½ percent of room where we can raise the local income tax which would bring in about \$8

or \$9 hundred thousand dollars to Randolph County and the other Cities and Towns would also benefit. What is in front of us is not going to be fixed when Covid goes away in January. I don't know where the Council is at, but it has to be part of our discussion. So, is there a possibility that the LIT tax can be raised, yes there is.

Meeks said if you are going to do that, you might want to make a motion to talk to Jason Semler to see what that really does. He can make that analysis, he has done that in the past for us.

Tom asked what is the time line on that.

Gary said I think you have to have your Ordinances in by October.

Meeks said it might be September, I don't know if we even have time.

Gary asked does someone want to make a motion to have Jason give us a look at what that would do, it doesn't commit anyone.

Tom made a motion to ask Jason Semler to give us an analysis on what raising the LIT would do for Randolph County. Missy seconded.

Gary said for Jason Semler to look at maximum LIT and stages of that until we hit maximum. We could go to 1.5% which would bring the county to 2.75%, which would bring in I think somewhere around \$800,000 or \$900,000.00. We have that motion, we have a second, any further discussion?

All aye votes. Motion carried.

Angela said I just need you, where you reviewed the estimated property tax levy limits and the estimated reductions due to circuit breaker for each taxing unit, you need to indicate that you have received these and the units need to be mindful of where they are because that needs to be indicated in the minutes that we will send to them.

Gary asked if someone would like to make the motion that Angela has just laid out.

Missy made a motion that the County Council has reviewed the estimated property tax levy limits and the estimated reduction due to circuit breaker for each taxing unit and the units need to be mindful of where they are. Rick seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Mayor Bob McCoy said that they have already started, we have cut about 5 1/2 % of the general fund and I have pretty much asked all of Winchester's department heads to start at 5% and we will go from there. He said we started the talks last night.

Gary asked Angela to please advise the department heads that the council may be requesting immediate reductions in costs.

Bob McCoy said I think it is easier for the department heads to go through their budgets first

before you guys actually start cutting.

Gary said yes, a lot of the time we just cut the dollar amount and they have to figure out where to cut it from.

Angela said you would like the memo to say...

Gary said it should say the possibility of.

Max said they need to be prepared to show us in their budget where they can cut.

Gary said and the possibility that the rest of this year we may have to start reducing cost. Reduction of budgets may begin in September.

Angela said you will instruct them as to a percentage or where it is to be.

Gary said I will have to speak to the Commissioner's and Council will have to get together and with Meek's help, how we can legally tell them what to do. Just be aware that cost cuts are possible.

### **Dave Lenkensdofer**

Dave said I was fortunate to be able to sit in on the County Council annual meeting. It was done on the internet. Actually thank goodness for our report from Bake Tilly and Jason we are light years ahead of other counties with that financial because they went over a bunch of different scenarios on the budgets and one thing that they did point out was to be careful on your growth quotient for the next two years because between the income tax and property tax and other taxes in that formula, those could really, if you try to do a 4%, I think it is 4.2% this year.

Gary said yes, it is 4.2%.

Dave said it could actually end up a negative growth quotient because of, they went through three different scenarios.

Gary said that has happened before.

Dave said it has and they said to be cautious, don't automatically include 4.2%. It was a very good program, he just spelled it right out, all we need to do. This isn't only going to affect 2021, this is also going to affect 2022. We have to get prepared now to get through the next two years. It's pretty critical. We also heard from Fred Van Dorp, he is the budget director for DLGF, he listed the budget calendar for the rest of the year and it looks like 11/2/2020 we have to adopt the 2021 budgets by then.

Laura said we usually adopt in September.

Dave said I know we do, but there are a lot of counties that don't for some reason. The other thing I wanted to bring up is Medicare and the health insurance. It could actually be a savings to

the county, if we encourage our 65 and over a chance to go onto Medicare and Social Security, if we would supplement that insurance somehow. They are still employed, some of them have I think already switched over, am I right Laura?

Laura said I have had 4 individuals sign off on the insurance.

Dave said they did not know if they were going to get any additional. What it does, let's say they are on a payment plan, that is about \$31,000.00 per year plus claims, if we would offer them so much per month as an enticement to go over to Medicare, that could save the county at least \$25,000.00 a year in premium and claims going forward. It's an idea, it's a concept, I think they do it in a few other counties in the state. What is happening in my opinion were not making an even playing field in health insurance, when you have an employee that is getting ready to go on Medicare, he is not receiving any benefit from the county health insurance. With the age group that are working to age 70 now, we are going to have this going forward quite a bit.

Gary said the claims are there too.

Dave said actually if you do go on Medicare, I sit down with Fred Pries just to get some sort of idea, the premiums per month would be more than what the county is charging an individual but it's only a \$200.00 deductible compared to \$4,000.00 per individual. For family that is \$8,000.00 deductible. Where Medicare would only be a couple hundred dollars.

Gary said for the County with a \$60,000.00 stop loss.

Dave said I don't know how you guys feel, but it's just out there on the table.

Gary said I think it is something that needs to be evaluated and looked at. What are the legalities of this Meeks do you know?

Meeks said we would have to talk to the Insurance agent and you would need to send it through the insurance committee. It is really a Commissioner decision.

Gary said we first need to get the legalities before we take the first step.

Meeks said I think that is when you take it to the insurance committee and they talk to Chris. My understanding is if you qualify you have to take it and you cannot be on our insurance. Is that right Laura?

Laura said no, if you sign up to draw social security, then you have to be on Medicare A. And you can take our insurance, you just cannot have contribution into your HSA, either from the county or from yourself. If you are on Medicare and if you sign up to draw social security and you're still working you have to be on Medicare.

Gary said will you put this request to the insurance committee Laura?

Laura said yes.

Dave said the concept of the idea is a potential savings.

Gary said I don't think anything is off the table when it comes to reorganizing, our expenses equal that of larger assessed value areas. All the things that keep coming at us.

**Citizen Comments (3-minute limit)**

None.

**Adjournment**

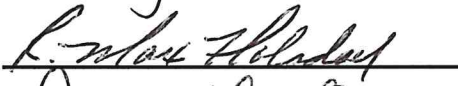
Rick made a motion to adjourn. Max seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

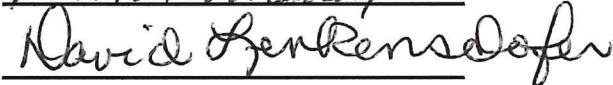
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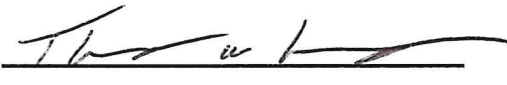
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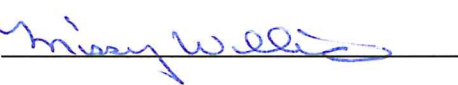
  
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ATTESTED:   
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Laura J Martin, Auditor